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NEW COMPUTER EXPRESS

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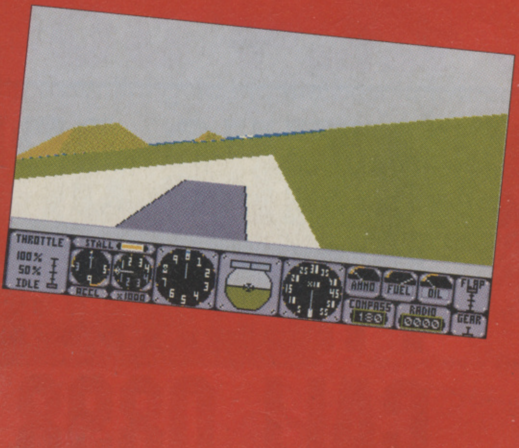
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- **TRY** it for yourself – Amiga *and* ST versions are on this week's disk!*
- **PLUS!** WIN 1,000 hours *free* online time, as 50 readers take to the skies

INSIDE

20 PAGES OF 16-BIT NEWS

**PS:* oh by the way, next week it's the PC's turn

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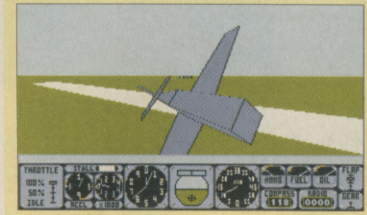
NEW COMPUTER EXPRESS

CONTENTS

21 September 1991 • Express 150

COVER STORY



• Fly and fight against fellow on-line ST and Amiga owners with *Air Warrior*

Chocks away for a world first!

The first multi-user on-line combat flight sim has just flown into the UK courtesy of On-line Entertainment. And it's on your disk too. Check out what makes it so special on page 5

THIS WEEK

News: All the latest updates – page 4-7

THE TIMES
TOSHIBA

• An entire copy of *The Times* and *The Sunday Times* are now available on CD-ROM from Toshiba – see page 4

What's New

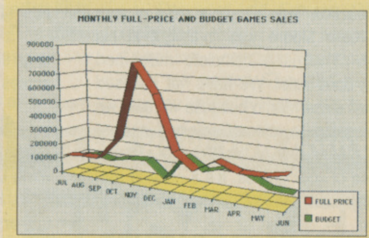
Philips notebooks and optical disk drives that'll knock you back £3,000 along with organisers and computer controlled telephones for a helluva lot less. The newest of the new are all on page 8

COVER DISK 3

Express software: Strap yourself in, fire up the disk, pull on your stick and get airborne on page 10

COVER DISK

THE EXPRESS FEATURE



• Software houses are in selling heaven during the months of November and December – so start saving now!

Fun with the figures of fun

How is your machine faring in the games software stakes? And what does the future hold? The fun starts for some and stops for others on pages 14 &15

INSIDE INFORMATION

The Amiga, ST & PC pages

A-Max II and Workbench 2 for the Amiga, a whole load of ST games news , *Excel 4* and *Ami Pro 2* for the PC are all just screaming for your attention on pages 53,54 & 56

A-Max II
Screen Size
Colors
Port A
Port B
ImageWriter Emulation
Video Mode
Memory Size
Memory Mode
Use KickStart

Copyright ©1990 ReadySoft Incorporated Written by Simon Douglas

X 691 ECS Y $116

Screen Size: Workbench

Colors: Default

Port A: Serial

Port B: Parallel

ImageWriter Emulation: Off

• Turn your Amiga into a Mac with *AMax II*

Public Domain

The essential guide to the best in low-cost software – pages 58, 59, 60 & 61

Games Week

Stuart Campbell visits ***Utopia***, meets ***Terminator 2*** and goes to the show no-one was allowed to visit. Catch the man with the wildest haircut in the universe on pages 62 & 63

•*Utopia:* now Gremlin enters the God sim market

SHOPPING EXPRESS

16-bit reviews	**17**	**CPC**	**25**	**Consoles**	**33**
Letters	**21**	**C64**	**29**	**TechTips**	**46**
Mac	**24**	**Spectrum**	**32**	**On-line**	**49**

YOUR MACHINE

AMIGA

Inter word and ***Flow 3.0*** rated and reviewed...17-18

Revamp your Amiga with revolutionary ***Sybil***........53

ST

Power Slimline and Progate 40DC appraised for value 54

On show at the ECES and tips for success 54

PC

Screenworks and ***Correct Grammar*** assessed and graded 18

Windows WP war, ***Wordtris*** preview, revamped ***Excel*** and portable book of the week on a packed page 56

MACINTOSH

Microsoft price cuts, fastest CD-Rom and MacHack winners 24

CPC

Domark's ***Grandstand,*** cheap DTP, and tips to load your tape software 25

C64

Spike in Transylvania reviewed, PD fanzine and sound moves...................29

SPECTRUM

Spectrum on screen near you, fanzine update and ***Postman Pat*** lives on...32

CONSOLES

More games for the CD PC engine, converting your Game Gear to a Master System and ***Battletoads*** on the loose 33

Dell of a deal

Nasty rumours start to fly when the founder of a major American hardware maker begins to sell his shares.

This is what has happened to Dell Computer Corporation, formed by ex-IBM executive, Michael Dell.

Dell, who owns eight million shares in the corporation has sold 350,000 of them over the last two and a half months, according to the Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC).

A spokesman for Dell put this shedding of stock down to "Normal portfolio diversification". With Dell in a strong position in both the PC and workstation markets worldwide, this diversification could well mean an expansion into the lower-end market. ■

EXPRESS...

Micro-mad farmers in Indiana, USA, are using hi-tech computers to buy and sell low-tech hay. The cornfed cowboys use their personal computers and modems to phone in details of the deals to a central computer system.

SNIPPET...

Hacker's hand turns to books

The man whose name went down in the annals of computer hacking for the daring Prince Philip/Prestel hack has turned over a new leaf.

In fact Robert Schifreen has turned over several hundred new leaves – those of his latest book called *Data Protection and Security for Personal Computers*.

Schifreen's prestel hack was splashed across the national newspapers and was made famous in *The Hackers Handbook*. It involved badly embarassing Prestel by not only breaking into its supposedly hack-free security system, but by also leaving messages in the HRH The Duke of Edinburgh's personal and private mail-box.

The latest book turns the tables on these activities by advising businesses on the possible dangers presented by hackers or just plain office thieves. Areas covered include virus protection, access control and passwording, tricks that hackers use, and special considerations for LAN servers, amongst other subjects.

The book costs a staggering £145 (that's £1.03 per page for the 140 page tome). For more information call the publishers TTK Ltd on 081-995 9845. ■

CD-ROM on the march

In a slap to the face for Philips, Hitachi, and Sony, Toshiba is claiming that it is the worldwide market leader in CD-ROM production and marketing.

Sources at the company claimed this week that it had sold "about 60,000 CD-ROM disk-drives" and has a "25 per cent market share".

However, Philips, the Dutch electronics company, will not be too upset by Tosh's claims; because for every CD-ROM disc and drive sold worldwide, it makes a royalty. ■

• An entire issue of *The Times* and *The Sunday Times* are now available on CD-ROM from Toshiba. The company is now claiming Compact Disc technology is the way forward to a 'Utopia' for computer users

Polygram pulls out of CD-I

Philips' dream of Compact Disc Interactive (CD-I) supremacy has taken a battering.

American magazine, *TWICE*, reports that PolyGram, the giant record and entertainments company, which is 80 per cent owned by Philips, is to sell its stake in Philips Interactive Media of America. This basically means that PolyGram is withdrawing from CD-I development.

The news has brought grins to the faces of Commodore personnel who are pushing CDTV. ■

Activision pulls in US Gold for breach of royalties contract

£200,000 LEGAL BATTLE ENSUES

Top UK leisure software publisher US Gold is being hauled over the coals by Activision in a £200,000 legal battle.

Activision UK, which has been involved in arguments as to who actually runs it since its UK offices were shut down in March this year, has issued legal proceedings for breach of contract. It claims that US Gold "breached an agreement for failure to pay sales guarantees and royalties".

SETTING A PRECEDENT

Activision president, Keith Moore, said: "We are not trying to be difficult, we'd just like to get paid the royalties for products which have come out. These problems have been going on since we (the Disk Company) took over. We perceive it as a simple collection matter. Maybe it is a precedent though. I have to solve these problems, and I picked out US Gold first because it was the biggest".

When asked if Activision's (which to all intents and purposes ceased to exist in March) reaction was simply a case of sour grapes, Keith Moore was forthright in his response: "That is a complete misnomer! Activision does exist. We have not released any games since March because we said we were not going to release any bad ones – and that means any of the old stuff. This is not a case of sour grapes. It's a case of getting money from royalties which are ours".

DISTRIBUTION RIGHTS

It is alleged that Activision granted USG the rights to distribute games which included *Hammerfist, Ninja Spirit, Dynamite Dux, Myth, Super Wonderboy, Enduro Racer, Wicked, Bangkok Knights, International Karate 2, Citadel*, and more than aptly for the current situation *Vendetta*.

The games fall into all the major formats including ST, Amiga, C64, Spectrum, and CPC. US Gold distributed the games in widely bought compilations, such as Sega Master Mix, Sega Arcade Turbo, Coin-Op Hits, and System 3 Pack.

It is claimed that USG has not paid the large sum of cash in the form of 'unpaid guarantees' – essentially royalties.

STORMY HISTORY

Activision's recent history has been stormy, while US Gold's fortunes in all senses of the word, have continued to improve. This is the first anyone has heard of Activision since the doors were shut on the Reading HQ and business moved to Paris.

The fact that two console compilations are included in the legal proceedings, combined with Activision/The Disk Company's known interests in the Sega market, is a major reason why the legal proceedings were issued in the first place.

It is understood that US Gold will make counter-claims which are based on the fact that it has been unable to complete several compilations because it has not received games from Activision. ■

Action axes laptop prices

Fancy a nice piece of 386SX notebook computing kit from IBM? Fancy it at a knock down price? Well, how about the N33SX and L40SX which are being sold by Action Computer Supplies at well below minimum retail price (mrp).

The N33SX, pictured right, is a 12MHz machine which comes with a 40Mb hard disk and 2Mb of RAM which is expandable to 6Mb. It uses Ni-Cad batteries which provide up to 1.5 hours of operating time.

The L40SX is the 20MHz version, with a 60Mb hard drive, up to 18Mb and three hours worth of battery time. Both machines come with serial and parallel ports, VGA side-lit LCD screens and auto-sensing mains units.

The L40SX costs £2,319 (mrp £3,495) and the N33SX £1, 235 (mrp is £1,865). For more information call Action on 081-900 2566. ■

Not so Sony side

The most organised, bureaucratic bug ever has just struck the Japanese multi-billion yen electronics giant Sony.

And the glitch has forced the company to stop selling its handheld, handwriting input palmtop computer, the Sony PTC300.

The built-in software will not let users carry out any actions which are not noted in the manual. Although sources close to Sony have not confirmed the exact nature of the problem, however it has been confirmed that Sony is to rush re-written software to its 162 dealers. ■

Air Warrior: US smash hit flys into the UK at long last

A TIME TO LIVE A TIME TO FLY!

COVER STORY

The world's most successful interactive, multi-user air-combat game has finally reached the UK.

Air Warrior which features on this week's *Express* Cover Disk, has already clocked up some 250,000 flying hours, and five years worth of development in the United States.

Its emergence in the UK opens up new vistas of in-flight entertainment to domestic computer users. And the distributor, On-Line Entertainment, has decided not to charge users through the nose by putting the system on a premium 0898 number.

CHEAP THRILLS

Air Warrior costs users £1.50 per hour, with an intial £5 down at the beginning of a session. According to On-LIne executive, Clement Chambers (formerly of CRL which produced the excellent *Tau Ceti*) the difference between playing *Air Warrior* and a well respected flight simulation like *F-11 Strike Eagle* is "The difference between playing with someone else and playing with yourself!".

Chambers, who has a history of cynicism concerning what he sees as a pompous computer industry, is claiming great things for his new venture. When we asked him why on earth people should fork out for a modem, and telephone bill in order to play a flight sim, he replied: "You have to realise that this is not a simulation as such. It has 3D graphics, several theatres of operation, and you are flying against real people in real time. In the States, the ace flyers, the Top Guns, use the game as relaxation and to hone their skills. I'm rather glad this isn't happening over here yet because once you get into the air with those guys you're lucky if you last 10 minutes".

ALL FORMAT FLYERS

Air Warrior is available to users of all 16-bits formats. WIth up to 40 people in the air at any one time, the action is fast, furious and sometimes too realistic.

One user told *Express*: "The adrenalin really does start to pump as you realise that it's not just a computer you're playing against, it's a real person. They can make mistakes, you can make mistakes. It's human against human, so you really want to win."

I
AIR WARRIOR
WD A

• *Air Warrior* : no longer will you have to pit your wits and hone your skills against the cold, clear, logic of a computer. Playing over the phone means playing real people

Air Warrior is up and running now. And you can take it for a trial run with *Express*. For more information call On-Line Entertainment on 081-558 6114. And remember to keep your goggles on at all times. ■

TURN TO PAGE 11 TO SEE HOW YOU COULD WIN 20 HOURS 'FLYING' TIME

Geisha game 'embarrassing'

Geisha, the game which, in the words of *Express*' ravening games reviewer Stuart Campbell, is "as sexy as that Benetton ad" is not published by Electronic Zoo but by Tomahawk.

A spokesman for the Zoo said: "We distribute it, and we don't really want to. We are embarrassed by it and wouldn't want our mothers to see it". ■

SHOOT FROM THE LIP

"We do it for the money. M-O-N-E-Y"
Randal Moulie of IBM, the trainer of chess-challenging chip monster, Deep Thought, commenting on why Big Blue invests in such apparent trivia.

'I can tell you that listening to two men talking about their latest cars is very similar to listening to two children talking about their latest Nintendo.'
Peter Brown, MD of toymaker Tony UK. From *The Independent*.

'Cyberspace remains a frontier region across which roam the few aboriginal technologists and cyberpunks who can tolerate the austerity of its savage computer interfaces, incompatible communication protocols, proprietary barricades, cultural and legal ambiguities, and general lack of useful maps or metaphors."
John P Barlow, co-founder of the Electronic Frontier Foundation, in *The Scientific American*.

'It looks much the same as the legal profession'
The same august organ's response.

EXPRESS...

The Police Football Intelligence Unit, which hold 6,500 files on footy thugs on its computer database, has chanced upon a new and rare breed of hooligan. It has been analysing photos and videos of the Tory party conference in Bournemouth.

SNIPPET...

Spying tonight!

The name behind the legendary *Hacker's Handbook* has published yet another exposé of the nastier side of computing.

Hugo Cornwall is the man and*The Industrial Espionage Handbook* is the book.

Since the publishers of the *Hacker's Handbook* decided not to re-print it, Cornwall – real name Peter Sommer – has been researching the new book dealing with the true meanings of jargon like 'pro-active market research' and 'competitor intelligence'.

According to a spokesman for the publishers Century: "It has no ethical standpoint, dealing with the collection and compilation of commercial intelligence and resources, disciplines, techniques and technologies available to the service of the industrial espionage agent". This includes such tactics as computer intrusion and reverse engineering.

A riveting read for anyone interested in computing and its seedy underside. The book costs £9.99 and is in the shops now. ■

EXPRESS...

Deep Thought, IBM's chess-playing wonder that seems to want to beat every human being on Earth, from Karpov to Joe Blow, has just drawn a two game match with Aussie champion, Darryl Johansen. The man played in Sydney, the computer in New York.

SNIPPET...

Floppy fails for Foreign Office

The Foreign Office has blundered again. It appears that following the closure of a company which was supplying the Foreign Office with office equipment, a floppy disk containing all the financial records was damaged beyond repair – and there was no back-up.

The liquidation of the unnamed company took place in February 1990.

After much manual bookkeeping, imbalances of up to £500 million were found and at the last report in July, £100,000 was still unaccounted for.

A report, published by the House of Commons Common Committee on public accounts is said to be 'disturbed' by the way that the Foreign Office seemingly disregarded basic guidelines on computing procedure – in other words no back-ups were made. The committee is also 'alarmed' and even 'astonished' that while the accounting system was being changed, so was the entire accounting staff.

The upshot of this multi-million pound loss of public money, which as usual is being blamed on computers, is that one cashier who stole £31,000 has been sacked. ■

Japan draws a trump card

First disks, then optical disks, then integrated circuit cards, and now Japan's NTT has come up with the integrated optical card.

The company calls its revolutionary new development in computer storage, the 'Hybrid'.

It comprises a layer of optical memory spread over a standard integrated circuit card (IC) of the type used as the storage medium for hand-held organisers such as the Sharp IQ.

The IC holds the central processing unit and 0.8Mb of memory, while the optical layer holds a massive 1Mb of memory.

Aside from standard text, even graphic and picture data can be stored using the card, although it cannot be erased or re-written. The Hybrid was first shown at the Smart Card Application and Technology Exhibition in Finland two weeks ago. Commercial releases of the card are not expected for another two years. ■

Banking on a system

No longer will you have to wait for weeks for that important cheque to clear if Barclays new cheque and document handling system catches on with other High Street banks.

Barclays has installed more than 1,500 NCR 87720 document handlers to carry out the task normally done by four manual systems.The new automated system reduces this process to a single operation in 700 of the High Street bank's branches.

Each cheque or document processed with the new system is allotted a unique reference number, allowing any queries to be chased more quickly.

With the new document handlers Barclays expects to save £8m a year by the mid-1990s.

The only downside is that the bank will also be able to send out petulent letters about overdrafts in double quicktime too. ■

EXPRESS...

An ex-British military laptop computer was sold at auction in Amsterdam. No big deal you might think, but this laptop followed the great tradition of containing low level military secrets!

SNIPPET...

Swift thinking

Sick of having your deskspace eaten up by huge modems? The new Swiftlink series from Multidata Communications could be the answer to your prayers.

Not only can the SL2442 and SL9642 cope with V42bis data compression, error correction, autodialling, dialback, security/password protection and up to 38,400 bit per second (bps) data transmission rates, they only measure 7 by 4 inches, due to the new Rockwell chipset. The SL2442 costs £495, the SL962 £895. Call 0793 782450. ■

The European Computer Entertainment Show drifts into

THE SHOW THAT

The European Computer Entertainment Show which was held at the spanking new Earl's Court II between 5-8 September was as dull as ditchwater.

The show, which ran into a minefield of mismanagement that exploded under the feet of the public late last month, featured no major new releases, no surprises and engendered none of the enthusiasm normally associated with Europe's premier computer event.

EARLS COURT
2

• Earl's Court II was the scene for this year's European Computer Entertainment Show. While there were entertainments in the form of parties, champagne and games playing for the industry, the buying public could only look on

NO GO AREAS

The ECES has been widely publicised throughout the computer press as a show for the public. It was only days before the decision to turn the event into a trade binge that adverts warned the public not to attend.

While a few members of the software buying public did make the journey to Earl's Court, the bulk stayed away. Had the consumer side gone ahead however, it is more than likely that the average computer user would have felt a sense of disappointment. There were none of the *RoboCops*, *Turtles*, pop star mini-concerts, product launches, arcade galleries (including the smoke belching, faulty machine like the one which adorned Ocean's stand last year) which made last year's event such a massive success.

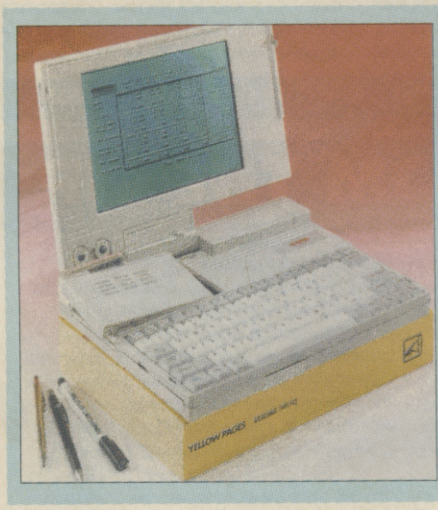
Many major software houses even boycotted the trade side of the event. Mirrorsoft set up shop at Kensington Park. US Gold – incorporating LucasFilm and SSI, Electronic Arts, Psygnosis, and Core Design were all at the Gloucester Hotel.

BAD TIMING?

Reasons for dropping the consumer side bandied about amongst leisure software gurus were that the show was too far away from Christmas to be effective, and that having to pay for two stands – one for the trade side, and one for the doomed consumer – was too much of an investment. According to a number of sources who were adamant that they should not be named in print, the whole affair had been mismanaged from the start. Excuses such as the so-called recession were generally dismissed as "rubbish" and "inaccurate".

NEXT YEAR ISLINGTON?

How does this all bode for an extravagant consumer show? Frankly it doesn't. According to Simon Jeffery of Electronic Arts: "In terms of business, we had a great show. But at the end of the whole thing we were calling the



Security on your lap

This Yellow Pages sized laptop boasts a removeable hard disk, a boon to security conscious users everywhere.

It is the Centreprise International Notebook 2-D Confidential, from the CI range of 286 and 386 machines. This series of machines weigh 2.6Kgs, and come with 40 or 80Mb hard disks, LCD displays, single 1.44Mb 3.5-inch floppy drives.

The 80286 2-D costs £1,495, while its more powerful 386 comrade comes in at £1,995. Both prices, and sizes, are more than respectable in a packed notebook market. ■

Touch typing benefits blind

Sight impaired Australians are feeling the benefits of computing with a new typing course.

Based on a voice controlled system, the Typequick course helps the blind and partially sighted to learn touch typing.

The developer of the system, Noel Macintosh, explains: "As far as we know there are no other systems in the world which cater specifically for blind typists".

Whether or not a British company has had the good sense to pick up on the idea has yet to be disclosed. ■

Acorn users have a ball

The news of the ECES non-event probably comes as no surprise to Archimedes users. They have a show of their own in the form of the BBC Acorn User Show.

It is to be held at Wembley Conference Centre from the 11 to 13 October and even members of the public are invited.

The show will include features for owners of the Archimedes, A3000, BBC, BBC Master and even the Electron.

More than 60 exhibitors are expected including Arxe Systems, Topologika, and Clares. Acorn experts will be running a diagnostic clinic offering help with problem machines. There will also be competitions, a game arcade with high score prizes, and even a school's projects centre.

Topping off the shebang is what the organiser calls a "Fabulous 60s concert" featuring such wrinkly rockers as Mike Berry, the Bruvvers and Herman's Hermits. Also appearing at the show will be athletes Linford Christie, Fatima Whitbread and Colin Jackson, and then Carol Vorderman of *Countdown* fame will also be there.

Doors open from 10am and shut at 6pm. Price in advance is £5 (adult), £3 (under 16) and £13 (two adults and two children). On the door these rise to £6, £4, and £16. ■

Apple case is overturned

Two top Apple Computer executives are breathing more easily now because a 1984 verdict against them has been overturned by a federal district court judge in California,US.

A 'class action' brought by an undisclosed number of disgruntled Apple customers had alleged that the execs had made misleading statements about the abilities of Apple's 'Twiggy' disk drive on the now discontinued Lisa computer.

In 1984 an Apple spokesman said that the company "Disagrees with the verdict and will contest it" . Had this new ruling not gone in their favour, the two Apple executives could have been made to pay damages of up to $40 million.

The latest judgement ruled in favour of former Apple chief executive office Mike Markkula and former vice president of Apple's peripheral products division John Vennard, ruling that there is no evidence that either man violated securities laws.

The judge has even ordered a new trial with respect to Apple itself.

A much relieved Apple vice president, Edward Stead, said: "We're gratified the ruling reversed the prior verdict against the two former officers and we're confident we will prevail in a new trial". ■

computer history with more of a wimper than a bang

NEVER WAS

Gloucester Hotel, Earl's Court III.

"We would be happy to commit to a consumer show next year, but until an organiser realises that it's not about making money, it's about aiding the public, it won't happen. We don't feel that the industry is mature or together enough at the moment to put on a good consumer show".

Andrew Wright of Virgin Games was equally acerbic in his comments: "This year's show was sadly lacking – it was an anti-climax to all that we had been expecting since last year. If we, as an industry can't get a something together for the consumer, that's a sad reflection on the state of this industry.

"Now it looks as if next year's will be trade only too, and not even Earl's Court – people are talking seriously about the Design Centre in Islington."

RIGHT TO REPLY

So, the excuses for a lack of consumer side, and a drab trade show have been coming thick and fast, recession being top of the list. However, for an industry which has seen its profits rise rather than fall since the last ECES, and is as healthy now as it has ever been this is a lame reason. Turn to page 9 of this week's issue to see what the industry's own statistics have to say about that. ■

WHAT WAS THERE FOR YOUR MACHINE?

Although ECES was a trade-only show, software houses did have to show their distributors the new releases which will be topping the charts late this year and early next. The possible hits to look out for are:

OCEAN

Notable news from the Manchester mega-company was that *Batman: The Movie* will soon be out as budget on the Hit Squad label. *Terminator II* stomped on to the scene at long last in its official launch, as did *Elf*.

SIERRA ON-LINE

Sierra has long been producing quality games for the PC. New releases expected include: *Rise of the Dragon* on the Amiga, *Space Quest IV*, on all major formats, *Red Baron, A-10 Tank Killer, Dr Brain* and *Mixed Up Mother Goose*.

ANCO

Having rested on the not insubstantial laurels of the *Kick Off* series (*Kick Off, Kick Off II* and *Player Manager*) it has been widely expected that Anco would storm into the show with previews of its now advertised *Tip Off* basketball game. It didn't. Instead there was news that *Kick Off* would be called *Pro Soccer* in Japan.

CORE DESIGN

Again expectations were running high with rumours that a follow-up to the successful *Corporation* would be confirmed for imminent launch. These came to nothing. Although the game is on the drawing board, eager fans should not hold their breath.

PSYGNOSIS

The Liverpudlian software house responsible for quality games like *Lemmings, The Killing Game Show* and *Shadow of the Beast* was being adept at staying quiet about new releases. *Shadow of the Beast III* has been expected, but became yet another no show.

Generally the show was a meeting place for executives and journalists who chatted in bars about the days of the PCW show, lasts year's ECES and the forthcoming Computer Shopper and World of Commodore shows. The public was not missed, and did not miss much themselves.

It the Super NES monster!

Nintendo has finally got round to launching its Super Nintendo Entertainment System (NES) in the States.

The Super NES, known in the UK via grey import as the Super Famicom, is the 16-bit version of Nintendo's 8-bit NES .

According to Nintendo's US vice president for marketing, Peter Main, who got carried away with his own marketing-speak, the machine can do more than just play games. It appears to be airworthy too: "The Super NES is flying off store shelves as fast as retailers can get it there", he said.

The $199.95 (£121.18 but expect a straight pound for dollar conversion when it comes to the UK next year) machine comes bundled with *Super Mario World.*

Only two other Super NES games are available outside Japan – *F-Zero*, and *Pilotwings* both costing £49.95 (£30.29).

The Super NES is accepted as a better machine technically than Sega's Mega Drive. Like the Mega Drive, it offers digital stereo sound, but it also has enhanced graphics abilities such as hardware scrolling, rotation and enlargement.

For British gamers, the American launch means that the wait for an official Super NES (Famicom) is lessening. Nintendo has hit the US in time for Christmas, and it is expected to do the same in Europe in 1992. ■

EXPRESS

Atari's latest press briefing at the Kensington Hilton included news of the company's £4 million marketing plans. On the slide shown to illustrate this, a new company had entered the console battle – apparently Atari is keeping up with a firm called Ninpendo.

SNIPPET

On-line engineers

Engineers who design and build artificial intelligence systems can now advertise their skills to all in the trade for free.

The International Association of Knowledge Engineers (IAKE), Washington, US, has started a free bulletin board system to list engineers' jobs and CVs .

To get yourself listed call 0101 800 833 6464 or 0101 301 816 2473. To post a CV, upload it to the same BBS numbers.

Contact Cathy Morris at IAKE on 0101 301 231 7826. ■

'Young genius' hacks through Pentagon

An American hacker has had a particularly busy year. During the Gulf War, Deri Schriebman, 18, managed to bypass the world renowned security of the Pentagon and cybered out with information on the Patriot missile system amongst other tip-top secrets.

The war over, Schriebman then became bored of military secrets and turned his attention to credit card organisation Visa.

Scrabbling around within Visa's computer network, the teenage terror was able to supply his friends with account details which they used in a monumental spending spree.

Schriebman, like many master criminals before him, was caught by a mixture of painstaking police work and luck.

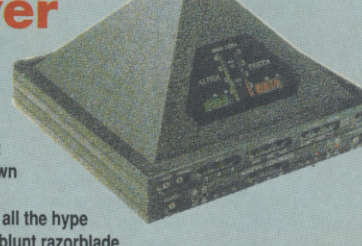
The Israeli police force had been monitoring international telephone lines and discovered that the young hacker had set up a system where he could make long distance calls for free.

The luck came when two of Schreibman's pals were caught using the illegal Visa numbers.

However, he is not being heralded as an infamous criminal, but as 'unquestionably the most talented computer hacker" the Israelis have ever come across.

And, in a stunning statement which is likely to put back the fight against hackers by years, one US law enforcement officer said: "We wouldn't want to block this young genius on his way to what is bound to be a brilliant life". ■

Pyramind power



Those old 1970's cults just refuse to lay down and die.

Remember all the hype about leaving a blunt razorblade inside a pyramid over-night only to see it sharpened the next morning? Well, the power of that ancient shape still holds sway. At least with the London Neuro Centre, makers of virtual reality kit and the Mind Pyramid. It is used to create states of meditation and stress control by reading the Alpha/Theta brain waves of the user and then plays soothing music or voice tapes.

All this for just £699 – call 071-284 4769. ■

Digital Research continues DOS war

Digital Research's Disk Operating System (DR-DOS) version 6 is now out, just weeks after arch-rival, Microsoft, launched its upgraded MS-DOS system version 5.

And Digital Research is already claiming that its PC OS is "in a commanding position to take further market share".

This is the first upgrade to the system since June 1990, and continues the war between Microsoft and DR which began in the late 1970s/early 80s. It was back then that DR's CP/M operating system was superceded by Microsoft's DOS, the system which went on to become the industry standard.

DR DOS 6 new features are :

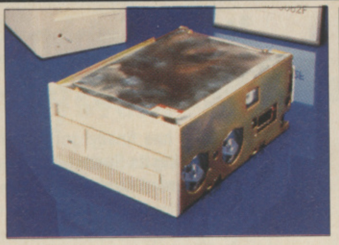
- Storage of up to 100 per cent more data on a hard disk.
- Improvements in the speed of disk access and data handling. Digital Research claims that this is 3-4 times faster than Microsoft's SmartDrive.
- Enhanced memory management.
- 20-task switcher. Not true multi-tasking.
- Cut and paste from one DOS application to another
- On-line user manual. DOSBook. This is truly revolutionary for PC disk operating system.
- High level un-delete facility plus an un-install facility.
- Security system

With the Windows graphic user interface rapidly becoming the only-way to run your PC, the battle for top-DOS still rages. And the poor reception given to Microsoft's DOS 4 has carried over in a reticence to accept DOS 5 as readily as the company would have liked. If DR-DOS is as good as Digital Research claims, a Battle Royal could well take place this year, which can only be good for users.

Price for DR-DOS 6 is £79. Upgrades from previous versions are £29.36. Call Digital Research on 0635 35304. ■

WHAT'S NEW

Another week, another avalanche of new products. Software, hardware, and even peripherals. And we bring you the facts in an easy to read format



• A 40Mb hard drive backed up in 7.5 seconds? Easy to fit, SCSI compatible, that's magneto-optical driving for you

Magno force

PRODUCT: Magneto-optical disk drive
NAME: Computamate RS-9200EII
COMPATIBILITY: PC/XT, Mac, Sun, PS/2

This re-writeable drive offers high speed storage, ISO ((International Standards Organisation) compatibilty and a fast access time. Fast, that is, when related to a standard hard drive.

The unit comes with a built-in SCSI interface, a boon for PC users whose machines are normally non-SCSI. A magento-optical drive is essentially a hard disk drive that combines optical technology for super-accurate head alignment with high-density magnetic media. This means that it is ideal for backing-up data on a regular basis, and at high speed. 5.5Mb per second, a 40Mb hard drive stored in 7.5 seconds. This is ideal for a small to medium-sized business, or for someone who uses voice, graphic or audio data.

Price: £3,230
Availability: Now
Target users: Users needingfast back-up
Contact: Tekdata: 0782 577677
Perceived competition: None

Phone home

PRODUCT: RS32-controlled phone
NAME: Ferntech 320
COMPATIBILTY: RS232

• Hands off telephoning takes a new course with Ferntech's revolutionary design. While aimed at the disabled, it could turn into this year's yuppie gadget

This system is all set to be a major boon to disabled users and those people who find hi-tech gadgets addictive. Based around the React 320 Plus telephone, the system enables users to carry out all the functions of phoning directly from their computer, whether it is a BBC, Mac or PC.

It is BABT approved, which means that it can be used on any BT line.

The Ferntech system works by using a Light Controller system. At the core of this is a scanning light box which displays the digits required to form phone numbers. In the high-end PC modules, the system can be activated by clicking on a screen image of the scan box, this sends the number to be dialled to the phone via the PC.

If using a mouse is beyond the capabilities of many disabled users, the system is also compatible with most popular voice recognition systems currently available. It also has a 12 number store.

As a system for the disabled, it should prove to be a major boost in their efforts to be recognised as valuable members of the working community. For the gadget lover, the technology involved in the system is well worth studying, and for the busy executive, it will make hands-off phoning even more impressive for everyone else to watch. We'll keep you informed of upgrades as they come in.

Price: £345
Availability: Now
Target users: The disabled
Contact: Ferntech: 051-708 0405
Perceived competition: None

Get organised

PRODUCT: Organiser software
NAME: ***The Organizer*** **(sic)**
COMPATIBILITY: WIndows-based PCs

The FiloFax™, icon of the late 1980's, leather–clad badge of the unlamented yuppie, and boon to the disorganised, lives on albeit in digital form.

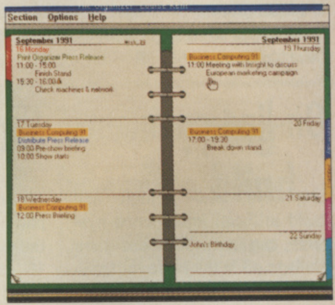
The Organizer comes replete with American spelling, Windows compatibility, and a special knock-down price of £99. This is an introductory deal for the product in this country and is only available at the Business Computing Show (17-21 September).

The software contains such modules as a diary, year planner, anniversary reminder, address book, to–do list, and even a notepad section for scribbling down those moments of blinding genius.

Once you have everything written down, you can then output it using customised fonts to FiloFax-sized paper, standard paper, or even labels.

All this, and the screen image even looks like the personal organisers of old with pages appearing to turn. The only thing you can't do is lose it on the train.

Price: £99
Availability: Now
Target users: PC Windows users.
Contact: Neow: 0628 668334
Perceived competition: Portex (with FiloFax-sized paper), SideKick, known as a deskset rather than a personal organiser but it does most of the same jobs.



September 1991
16 Monday
Print Organizer Press Release
11:00 - 15:00
Finish Stand
15:30 - 16:00
Check machines & network
17 Tuesday
Business Computing 91
Distribute Press Release
09:00 Pre-show briefing
10:00 Show starts
18 Wednesday
Business Computing 91
12:00 Press Briefing

September 1991
19 Thursday
Business Computing 91
11:00 Meeting with Insight to discuss European marketing campaign
20 Friday
Business Computing 91
17:00 - 19:30
Break down stand
21 Saturday
22 Sunday
John's Birthday

• The late-1980's desire for organisation, leather-bound notebooks and small pages with odd holes, returns in digital form

Hold up

PRODUCT: Disk/Note holder
NAME: Fellowes Disk/Note
COMPATIBILITY: Anyone at all

It looks like a flatbed scanner which should set you back a few thousand quid, but those clean lines and good looks are merely fooling you into a false sense of technological over-drive. The product in the picture below is a boon to a computer users who have to deal with large amounts of data or text entry combined with disk changing.

The main body of the holder acts as a stand for page upon page of data, while the protruding edge will take the disks. Simple. effective, and under £3.

Price: £2.95
Availability: Now
Target users: Absolutely anyone.
Contact: Fellowes: 0302 885331
Perceived competition: Bits of wood which act as stand-by copyholders, there is nothing that will hold disks and copy. ■

A portable Philip for you

PRODUCT: 386SX Notebook PC
NAME: PCL304
Compatibility: PC

This 16MHz notebook PC sees Philips attempting to make the most of a troubled recent history in the hardware market.

The machine comes with the, by now standard, LCD VGA display - recently superceded by Thin Film Transfer (TFT) technology in other portables.

Storage is achieved with the use of a 40Mb hard disk with 29 millisecond (ms) access time. It is also autoparkable which is only to expected in a portable. Supplementing the hard disk is a 1.44Mb 3.5-inch floppy drive.

Philips is not jumping on the Windows bandwagon, the PCL304 comes bundled with MS-DOS 4.1, not the latest version 5, MS-DOS Shell, and GW-BASIC 3.23. All this is held in a frame which weighs a slightly heavy 1.3Kg (6.82Lb).Battery power is said to last up to 2.5 hours.

Price: £2,499.99

• Philips releases new hardware in fairly standard form with a new notebook. The name suggests a reliable build-quality, the specs are reliably average

Availability: Now
Target users: PC users who require standard portability
Contact: Philips:081-689 4444
Perceived competition: Toshiba, Sharp, and Tandy.

SEIKOSHA DOT MATRIX PRINTERS

Silica Systems are pleased to recommend Seikosha printers to you at ***NEW LOW PROMOTIONAL PRICES***. The Seikosha range is built to the highest standards, by a company that is used to manufacturing high quality precision products. In fact, you may be wearing one of these products on your wrist as Seikosha are part of the massive Seiko/Epson group (with a turnover of £6 billion and 18,000 staff!).

When you buy a Seikosha printer from Silica, we will give you a Silica PRINTER STARTER KIT (worth £25+VAT= £29.38) FREE OF CHARGE, to make sure you get off to a flying start with your new printer. For further information on the Seikosha range, complete and return the coupon below. Or, if you can't wait to get your hands on a new low priced Seikosha printer, telephone our mail order hotline, 081-309 1111 to place your order now.

- ***FREE DELIVERY*** Next day - anywhere in the UK mainland
- ***FREE STARTER KIT*** Worth £29.38 with every Seikosha printer.
- ***FREE HELPLINE*** Technical helpline during office hours.
- ***1 YEAR WARRANTY*** With every Seikosha printer from Silica.

Each print example was produced by the printer it is shown with. Printer speeds are quoted as follows: SD = Superdraft 15cpi, D = Draft 12cpi, NLQ = Near Letter Quality 12cpi, LQ = Letter Quality 12cpi.

9-PIN PRINTER

Seikosha SP-1900
SEIKOSHA SP-1900

192 CPS **80** COLUMN

- *Seikosha SP-1900AI - 9 pin - 80 col*
- *192cps Draft, 48cps NLQ*
- *1K Printer Buffer + 2 Fonts*
- *Parallel Interface*
- *Graphics Resolution: 144×72dpi*
- *Epson and IBM Emulation*
- *Paper Parking*
- *FREE Silica Printer Starter Kit*

SP-1900AI RRP	£179
STARTER KIT	£25
TOTAL RRP:	£204
SAVING:	£105
***SILICA PRICE** (EXC VAT):*	**£99**

£99

+VAT= £116.33 Ref: PRI 8190

9-PIN PRINTERS

Seikosha SP-2000

192 CPS **80** COLUMN

- *Seikosha SP-2000AI - 9 pin - 80 col*
- *192cps Draft, 48cps NLQ*
- *21K Printer Buffer + 2 Fonts*
- *Parallel and Serial Interfaces*
- *Graphics Resolution: 144×72dpi*
- *Epson and IBM Emulation*
- *Optional Auto Sheet Feeder Unit*
- *FREE Silica Printer Starter Kit*

RRP:	£199
STARTER KIT	£25
TOTAL RRP:	£224
SAVING:	£95
SILICA PRICE:	£129

£129

+VAT=£151.58 ref: PRI 8200

SEIKOSHA SP-2415

240 CPS **136** COLUMN

- *Seikosha SP-2415AI - 9 pin - 136 col*
- *300cps SD, 240cps Draft, 50cps NLQ*
- *17.5K Printer Buffer + 5 Fonts*
- *Parallel and Serial Interfaces*
- *Graphics Resolution: 240×144dpi*
- *Epson and IBM Emulation*
- *Superior Paper Handling*
- *FREE Silica Printer Starter Kit*

RRP:	£320
STARTER KIT	£25
TOTAL RRP:	£345
SAVING:	£136
SILICA PRICE:	£209

£209

+VAT=£245.58 ref: PRI 8215

24-PIN PRINTERS

SEIKOSHA SL-92

240 CPS **80** COLUMN

- *Seikosha SL-92AI - 24 pin - 80 col*
- *240cps Draft, 80cps LQ*
- *44K Printer Buffer + 2 Fonts*
- *Parallel Interface*
- *Graphics Resolution: 360×360dpi*
- *Epson Emulation*
- *Optional Font ROM - 7 Fonts*
- *FREE Silica Printer Starter Kit*

RRP:	£335
STARTER KIT	£25
TOTAL RRP:	£360
SAVING:	£171
SILICA PRICE:	£189

£189

+VAT=£222:08 ref: PRI 8292

SEIKOSHA SL-210

- *Includes Programmable ROM Card*

324 CPS **80** COLUMN

- *Seikosha SL-210AI - 24 pin - 80 col*
- *324cps Draft, 108cps LQ*
- *5K Printer Buffer + 9 Fonts*
- *Parallel and Serial Interfaces*
- *Graphics Resolution: 360×360dpi*
- *Epson and IBM Emulation*
- *Optional Auto Sheet Feeder*
- *FREE Silica Printer Starter Kit*

RRP:	£599
STARTER KIT	£25
TOTAL RRP:	£624
SAVING:	£255
SILICA PRICE:	£369

£369

+VAT=£433.58 ref: PRI 8321

WORLD's FIRST! NOTEBOOK DOT MATRIX PRINTER

- *Handles 1+2 Multipart Forms*
- *Rechargeable Battery Pack Optional*

144 CPS **80** COLUMN

- *Seikosha LT-20 - 24 pin - 80 col*
- *180cps SD, 144cps Draft, 60cps LQ*
- *1K Printer Buffer + 9 Fonts*
- *Parallel Interface*
- *Graphics Resolution: 360×180dpi*
- *IBM Emulation*
- *Built-in 50 Sheet Auto Feeder*
- *FREE Silica Printer Starter Kit*

RRP:	£299
STARTER KIT	£25
TOTAL RRP:	£324
SAVING:	£75
SILICA PRICE:	£249

£249

+VAT=£292.58 ref: PRI 8820

BUSINESS PRINTERS (WIDE-BODY)

Seikosha SL-230AI

- *Includes Programmable ROM Card*

277 CPS **136** COLUMN

- *Seikosha SL-230AI - 24 pin - 136 col*
- *277cps Draft, 92cps LQ*
- *5K Printer Buffer + 9 Fonts*
- *Parallel and Serial Interfaces*
- *Graphics Resolution: 360×360dpi*
- *Epson and IBM Emulation*
- *Optional Auto Sheet Feeder*
- *FREE Silica Printer Starter Kit*

RRP:	£699
STARTER KIT	£25
TOTAL RRP:	£724
SAVING:	£275
SILICA PRICE:	£449

£449

+VAT=£527.58 ref: PRI 8423

462 CPS **136** COLUMN

- *Seikosha BP-5500AI - 8 pin - 136 col*
- *462cps Draft, 106cps NLQ*
- *18K Printer Buffer*
- *Parallel and Serial Interfaces*
- *Graphics Resolution: 240×144dpi*
- *Epson and IBM Emulation*
- *Optional Auto Sheet Feeder*
- *FREE Silica Printer Starter Kit*

RRP:	£1299
STARTER KIT	£25
TOTAL RRP:	£1324
SAVING:	£325
SILICA PRICE:	£999

£999

+VAT=£1173.83 ref: PRI 8755

- *Low Form Tear-off*

520 CPS **136** COLUMN

- *Seikosha BP-5780AI - 18 pin - 136 col*
- *780cps SD, 520cps Draft, 130cps NLQ*
- *20K Printer Buffer + 2 Fonts*
- *Parallel and Serial Interfaces*
- *Graphics Resolution: 240×240dpi*
- *Epson and IBM Emulation*
- *Handles 1+6 Multipart Forms*
- *FREE Silica Printer Starter Kit*

RRP:	£1699
STARTER KIT	£25
TOTAL RRP:	£1724
SAVING:	£325
SILICA PRICE:	£1399

£1399

+VAT=£1643.83 ref: PRI 8780

800 CPS **136** COLUMN

- *Seikosha SBP-10AI - 18 pin - 136 col*
- *800cps Draft, 200cps NLQ*
- *64K Printer Buffer + 2 Fonts*
- *Parallel and Serial Interfaces*
- *Graphics Resolution: 240×240dpi*
- *Epson and IBM Emulation*
- *Built-in Cut Sheet Feeder*
- *FREE Silica Printer Starter Kit*

RRP:	£2999
STARTER KIT	£25
TOTAL RRP:	£3024
SAVING:	£525
SILICA PRICE:	£2499

£2499

+VAT=£2936.33 ref: PRI 8810

FREE! STARTER KIT

200 PRINTER PACK

Every Seikosha printer from Silica, comes with the Silica Printer Starter Kit, worth £29.38 (£25 +VAT), completely FREE OF CHARGE. It includes all you need to get up and running with your new printer.

- ***3½" Disk with Amiga & ST Printer Drivers***
- ***1.8 Metre Parallel Printer Cable***
- ***200 Sheets of Quality Continuous Paper***
- ***100 Continuous Tractor Feed Address Labels***
- ***5 Continuous Envelopes on Tractor Feed***

Printer owners may order the Silica Starter Kit (ref: KIT 5000) for only £24.38 - £5 off RRP!

SILICA SYSTEMS OFFER YOU

- ***FREE OVERNIGHT DELIVERY:*** On all hardware orders shipped in the UK mainland.
- ***TECHNICAL SUPPORT HELPLINE:*** Team of technical experts at your service.
- ***PRICE MATCH:*** We normally match competitors on a "Same product - Same price" basis.
- ***ESTABLISHED 12 YEARS:*** Proven track record in professional computer sales.
- ***BUSINESS + EDUCATION + GOVERNMENT:*** Volume discounts available for large orders.
- ***SHOWROOMS:*** Demonstration and training facilities at our London & Sidcup branches.
- ***THE FULL STOCK RANGE:*** All of your requirements from one supplier.
- ***FREE CATALOGUES:*** Will be mailed to you with offers and software/peripheral details.
- ***PAYMENT:*** By cash, cheque and all major credit cards.

Before you decide when to buy your new printer, we suggest you think very carefully about WHERE you buy it. Consider what it will be like a few months after you have made your purchase, when you may require additional peripherals or software, or help and advice. And, will the company you buy from contact you with details of new products? At Silica Systems, we ensure that you will have nothing to worry about. We have been established for over 12 years and, with our unrivalled experience and expertise, we can now claim to meet our customers requirements with an understanding which is second to none. But don't just take our word for it. Complete and return the coupon now for our latest Free literature and begin to experience the "Silica Systems Service".

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SILICA SYSTEMS

MAIL ORDER:	1-4 The Mews, Hatherley Rd, Sidcup, Kent, DA14 4DX	**Tel: 081-309 1111**
Order Lines Open: Mon-Sat 9.00am-6.00pm	No Late Night Opening	Fax No: 081-308 0608
LONDON SHOP:	52 Tottenham Court Road, London, W1P 0BA	**Tel: 071-580 4000**
Opening Hours: Mon-Sat 9.30am-6.00pm	No Late Night Opening	Fax No: 071-323 4737
LONDON SHOP:	Selfridges (1st Floor), Oxford Street, London, W1A 1AB	**Tel: 071-629 1234**
Opening Hours: Mon-Sat 9.30am-6.00pm	Late Night: Thursday until 8pm	Extension: 3914
SIDCUP SHOP:	1-4 The Mews, Hatherley Rd, Sidcup, Kent, DA14 4DX	**Tel: 081-302 8811**
Opening Hours: Mon-Sat 9.00am-5.30pm	Late Night: Friday until 7pm	Fax No: 081-309 0017

To: Silica Systems, DEPT NCE - 991 - 58 1-4 The Mews, Hatherley Rd, Sidcup, Kent, DA14 4DX

PLEASE SEND FREE SEIKOSHA INFORMATION

Mr/Mrs/Ms: .... Initials: .... Surname: ....

Company Name (if applicable): ....

Address: ....

....

.... Postcode: ....

Tel (Home): .... Tel (Work): ....

Which computer(s), if any, do you own? 58C

E&OE - Advertised prices and specifications may change - Please return the coupon for the latest information.

COVER DISK 3

The Express Cover Disk knows no bounds – this week it launches Amiga and ST owners into the wild blue yonder

It's upstoppable! As the weeks fly by the *Express* Cover Disk continues to break the boundaries of magnetic media. In this week's bumper issue we have *Air Warrior*, which breaks through the previously impenetrable stratosphere of single user flight simulations and opens up an unparalleled multi-user aerial experience.

The *Express* Cover Disk is a tri-format disk which, in basic terms, means there are programs for three different machines contained on it. While it may be simple to describe the disk in that way, the disk format itself is far from simple. It's been specially developed by Rob Northen Computing and enables the disk space dedicated to each machine to be adjusted.

CONTENT WITH THE CONTENTS?

Of course, while we decide what to put on the disk, we're always open to suggestions and ideas that you, the readers, may have to improve it.

What we want to do is provide programs that enable you to use your machine to the full – whether it is an Amiga, ST or PC – to see what it is capable of.

If these ideas sound interesting to you (or even if they don't) then write in and tell us why! Send your feedback to: Cover Disk Feedback, *New Computer Express*, 30 Monmouth Street, Bath, BA1 2BW.

COVER DISK PROBLEMS

Each week the Cover Disk is tested to see if it works on as many system configurations as possible, but because of the complex nature of the disk format some problems may arise.

If they do then write in and tell us what went wrong, the type of system and set-up you have and whether you have found a solution to it.

That way, we can inform other readers of the problem (and, hopefully, a solution) in the next possible issue of *Express*. And because we're a weekly magazine, you'll all be informed of these much sooner than in any other publication. Send your information to: Cover Disk Problems, *New Computer Express*, 30 Monmouth Street, Bath BA1 2BW. Phone enquiries should only be made between 9.30 and 1.30 on Friday.

DISK RETURNS

Because *Express* is responsible for duplicating over 40,000 Cover Disks each week,.it is possible that some of the disks are faulty.

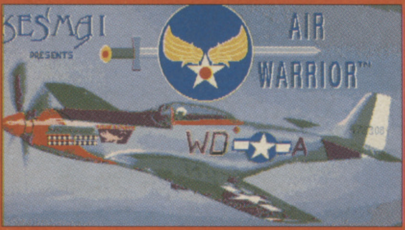
If this is the case, and you need a replacement, send your faulty disk, accompanied by an SAE, to:*New Computer Express* Issue 150 Returns, Disk Copy Labs, Unit A, Westmarch, London Road, Daventry, Northants, NN11 4SA. Please remember the SAE.

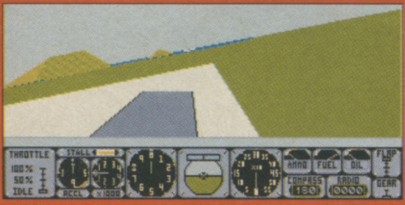
EXPRESS DISCLAIMER

While we strive to ensure that the Cover Disk is free of all viruses and that the programs on it work properly, New Computer Express does in no way accept any liability for any consequences that may arise from using the disk or the programs on it. ■

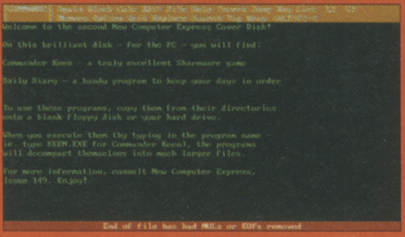
DISK CONTENTS

AMIGA & ST
Air Warrior





PC
Tex



```
Welcome to the second New Computer Express Cover Disk!

On this brilliant disk - for the PC - you will find:

Commander Keen - a truly excellent Shareware game

Daily Diary - a handy program to keep your days in order


To use these programs, copy them from their directories
onto a blank floppy disk or your hard drive.

When you execute them (by typing in the program name -
ie. type KEEN.EXE for Commander Keen), the programs
will decompact themselves into much larger files.

For more information, consult New Computer Express,
Issue 149. Enjoy!

End of file has had NULs or EOFs removed
```

INTERESTED?

If you work for a software house or run a Public Domain/shareware company and are interested in contributing software to be used on the *Express* Cover Disk, we'd like to hear from you now! Call Tim Howell, Cover Disk editor, on 0225 442244.

COMMANDER KEEN

The complete *Commander Keen* trilogy, the first part of which was on last week's *Express* Cover Disk, can be obtained by sending £35.19 plus £2 postage and packaging to: Precision Software Applications, Tarnwood, 10 High Street, Tadlow, Near Roysten, Herts SG8 0ES. Phone: 0767 23302.

***Commander Keen* was the biggest selling shareware PC game in the US for six months is so good that the company has just bought the European rights to the game.**

All enquiries on *Commander Keen* should be made to Precision Software Applications and not the US publisher Apogee Software.

FANCY CONTRIBUTING? THEN FILL IN THIS FORM

NAME: ....

ADDRESS:...

....

....

TELEPHONE: .... (day) .... (night)

COMPUTER: Amiga Atari ST PC The name of the program is:

SIZE OF FILE(S): ☐ K

TYPE OF SOFTWARE:
- ☐ Business application
- ☐ Game
- ☐ Music program
- ☐ Novelty
- ☐ Technical utility
- ☐ Art program
- ☐ Educational
- ☐ Other

BRIEF DESCRIPTION:...

CHECKLIST:
- ☐ README.DOC file included on disk
- ☐ Printout of README.DOC (if possible)
- ☐ Disk is labelled with your name, address, phone number
- ☐ Disk is certified virus free

DECLARATION:This program is submitted for publication by *New Computer Express.* I have totally written it myself, and I agree to indemnify Future Publishing against any legal action that may arise due to copyright problems.

SIGNED: ....

DATE: ....

AIR WARRIOR

THE GAME WITH ALTITUDE

Multi-user games have been all the rage in the US for a number of years now and as a result these games have got increasingly advanced. In the UK, though, we've been a bit behind the times. Sure, we've had MUD (Multi-User Dungeon) but as far as anything more advanced than that goes we're a bit behind the Americans.

Now with the services of On-line Entertainment, we have got the world's first on-line flight simulator in this country which features colourful, filled moving graphics.

And used in combination with the *Air Warrior* programs included on this week's *Express* Cover Disk, you can launch yourself into a whole new world of aerial activity.

The on-line system lets you fly with or fight against a number of other aircraft. These aren't the usual unintelligent planes found in most flight simulators, though – there are other human players behind the joysticks of the other craft. In theory, then, your support and opposition should be more deadly than ever before.

Up to 40 people can take part in the game at once, and can not only fly planes – of which there are quite a few to choose from – but drive tanks as well. Players of the game can join or form their own squadrons together and even join or defect from the country they have allegiance to. As you may have been able to gather, there's quite a lot to the game.

ACCESSING THE SYSTEM

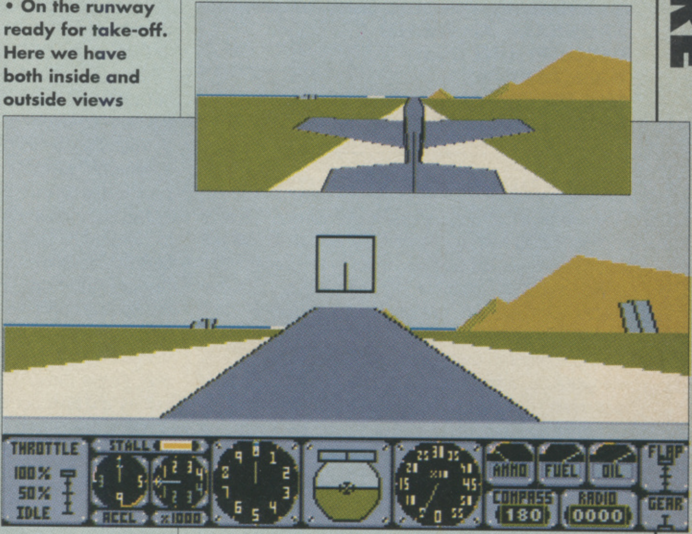
To access the on-line system you need a computer equipped with the *Air Warrior* program – which you've got courtesy of the *Express* Cover Disk – and a modem.

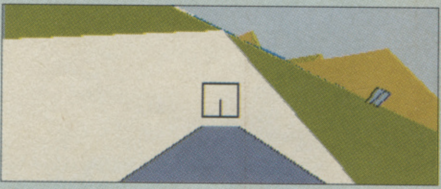
Registration to the system is made by calling the on-line mainframe with your modem, and giving your details. Payment is made by credit card, and the minimum charge for getting on-line is £5. However, fifty lucky *Express* readers will get 20 hours of free access to the system with our exclusive competition run in conjunction with On-line Entertainment. See elsewhere on these Cover Disk pages for details on how to win your free air time.

The *Air Warrior* program is a basic terminal emulator which is capable of logging players on to the system as well as controlling an individual part of the game. All the details for doing this are found in the document files included with the main program.

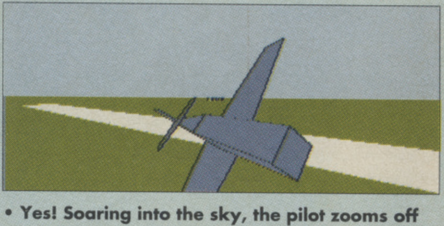
For other users who want to download the program for their machines – afterall, *Air Warrior* is also available for the Macintosh as well as the Amiga, ST and PC – you can log on to the system by dialling 081-539-6763 with your modem. Set your terminal software to 1 stop bit, 8 data bits and no parity. ■

• On the runway ready for take-off. Here we have both inside and outside views





• Engines started and we're off down the runway. Does the pilot have control?



• Yes! Soaring into the sky, the pilot zooms off to start some *Air Warrior* adventures

FANCY A FLIGHT?

Fifty lucky *Express* readers have the chance to win 1,000 hours of free flight time on the *Air Warrior* on-line system. That's 20 hours each!

We've arranged the free flying sessiona with On-line Entertainment – this would normally cost you £1.50 an hour, excluding VAT – that's more than £1,700 worth of aerial action up for grabs!

Remember, though, that to get on the On-line system you need to have a modem as well as your *Air Warrior* program.

All you have to do to get your free flight time is send us a postcard with your name, address and phone number. We'll send the first 50 replies to On-line Entertainment, who will then organise the subscriptions and on-line accounts for each user.

Send your entries to: *Air Warrior* Competition, *New Computer Express*, 30 Monmouth Street, Bath BA1 2BW.

AIR WARRIOR PLAYER'S GUIDE

KEYPAD COMMANDS

(Forward & Left	) Forward & Right	/ Forward & Up	* Tilt up
7 Left	8 Down	9 Right	- Straight ahead
4 Left & Back	5 Back	6 Right & Back	+ Tilt down
1 Turret left	2 Turret stop	3 Turret right	Enter Turret up
0 Turret down		• Traverse lock	

Now you can take to the skies and shoot your friends using this week's amazing Cover Disk program, *Air Warrior*. With it you can fly realistic head-to-head missions against people all over the world in the comfort of your own armchair.

YOUR PRE-FLIGHT CHECKS

But before you jump in and take off, it's worth finding out the controls. You can use the mouse to guide your plane through the skies by changing the position of the plane's control stick. Holding down the LEFT mouse button centres the stick and enables only nose-pitch control. This is very useful to adjust your altitude in turns without adding any more roll. In easy mode this also levels the wings. The RIGHT mouse button fires the guns.

There are three types of keyboard commands: immediate, command line and hold-down. Immediate commands work when you press the appropriate key; no other action is needed. To access command line functions, press ESC, enter the command and then press RETURN. Hold-down commands only have an affect while you hold the key down.

CLEARED FOR TAKE-OFF

Load up the *Air Warrior* program for your machine and you find yourself looking at the main menu. At this stage you may wish to try the planes out on a safe practice airfield. Just select Transport from the menu bar and then choose a fighter or bomber by pressing the buttons which appear. The display clears and after a second or two you're looking out of your craft's main windscreen.

Ahead of you stretches the runway. First press F10 to get the engines fired up. Bombers with more than one engine need several presses on F10 to get them all running. Once the motors are going, press SHIFT and C together to open the throttles up to maximum. After a short delay you should see the backgrounds beginning to

continued on the next page ➢

COVER DISK 3

AMIGA AND ST

AMIGA INFORMATION

PROGRAM: Air Warrior
DESCRIPTION: Game
DIRECTORY: -
FILE (S): AIRAMI.ZIP, PKAZIP, CLICK BUTTON, MESSAGE

LOADING AIR WARRIOR

Unlike the previous two *Express* Cover Disks, this time we have had to archive the multiple Amiga *Air Warrior* files into a smaller, single file in order to fit it on the disk.

As a result, de-archiving the file is probably procedure that many of you would not be used to, but it is reasonably easy to do.

The program that performs the dearchiving is called PKAZip, a more up-to-date version of the classic Zip archiving tool and is also on the Cover Disk

When you put the *Express* Cover Disk into the Amiga's disk drive, PKAZip will run soon after the welcome message comes up.

To de-archive the file, follow these steps:

1) Insert your back-up version of the Cover Disk into your internal drive. Wait for *PKAZip* to load.

2) Click on the SRC icon near the bottom of the screen. When a list of the Amiga's devices appears, select DF0: because that is the drive where the disk is in. Wait for the files on the disk to be displayed on-screen.

3) Then click on the DEST icon and select DF0: as the destination device – you'll be dearchiving *Air Warrior* back to this disk.

4) Next click on the AIRAMI.ZIP file in the DF0: window to highlight it. Click on the UNZIP icon and the file will start dearchiving on to the disk.

5) After that things should be OK. Reset your machine (by holding down the CTRL, left Amiga and right Amiga keys at the same time. The two Amiga keys are to the left and right of the space bar.), put in your Workbench disk in the drive. Then, once the Workbench screen comes up, take out the Workbench disk and insert the disk you dearchived *Air Warrior* to.

There is a document file on the disk which details *Air Warrior's* functions. This can be viewed by loading up your Workbench disk, entering the CLI (double click on the CLI icon which is in the System draw). Then replace the Workbench disk with your *Air Warrior* disk, enter TYPE DF0:README.2.5A. You will be asked to swap disks twice, then the file is displayed on-screen.

PKAZIP

PKAZip is also a fully usable program in its own right and can be used to archive and dearchive many programs; not just *Air Warrior*. This can be especially useful when using a modem as the program not only creates a single file but it is also compressed.

There are document files for *PKAZip* on the disk, which can be found in the s directory. The reason they are here is that the main program 'looks' here when it loads to see if its accompanying programs are here before it will run.

Because *PKAZip* is a shareware program there are also details on how to register as a user of the program which, if you find the program useful, you are obliged to do. To get further details, click on the LICENCE icon. ■

AMIGA BACK-UP COPY

1 Start your Amiga with your Workbench disk.

2 Take a blank disk and initialise it (instructions in your user manual).

3 Now enter the CLI, by double clicking on the CLI icon that is in your System draw on a standard Workbench disk.

4 Then enter the following CLI commands to set up our working environment (remember to press <RETURN> after each):

```
MAKEDIR RAM:C
COPY C:COPY|DIR|DELETE RAM:C
COPY C:MAKEDIR|INSTALL RAM:C
PATH RAM:C ADD
PROTECT RAM:C RWE
PROTECT RAM:C/COPY RWE
PROTECT RAM:C/DIR RWE
PROTECT RAM:C/DELETE RWE
PROTECT RAM:C/MAKEDIR RWE
PROTECT RAM:C/INSTALL RWE
```

5 Once you have entered the commands and the drive light has gone out, take out your Workbench disk and put your New Computer Express Cover Disk in the internal drive (DF0:). To start copying, enter the following CLI command:

```
COPY DF0:#? RAM:
```

6 During copying, the machine will display a list of the files being copied. Once copying has finished, remove your Cover Disk and insert your newly formatted disk into the internal drive and enter the following commands:

```
COPY RAM:#? DF0:
DELETE RAM:#?
```

7 That's the first part of the Cover Disk copied. The next step is a bit more tricky.

Firstly, remove your copy disk and insert the Cover Disk into the internal drive. Enter the following:

```
DIR DF0: OPT D
```

The Amiga should then display a list of all the directories on your Cover Disk which will looking something like the following:

```
c (dir)
devs (dir)
l (dir)
libs (dir)
s (dir)
```

Write down this list onto a piece of paper (the '(dir)' extension is not needed).

8 With your Cover Disk in the internal drive, each directory that was listed has to be copied individually from the Cover Disk onto your copy disk.

So, as an example, to copy the c directory you would enter:

```
COPY DF0:c ALL RAM:
```

9 Now, remove the Cover Disk and insert your copy disk and type:

```
MAKEDIR DF0:c
COPY RAM: ALL DF0:c
DELETE RAM:#? ALL
```

9Now repeat stage 8 for all the directories on the Cover Disk master. (So, in the CLI commands above, replace each instance of 'c' with the name of the directory to be copied). Once all the directories have been copied you will have a successful copy of the Cover Disk.

10 The final step in backing up the Cover Disk is to install it to make it bootable:

```
INSTALL DF0:
```

AIR WARRIOR PLAYER'S GUIDE

move as you taxi down the runway. Just keep with it, moving the mouse to keep the plane lined up with the runway. Your flight speed indicator shows your current rolling speed; once you reach 75 knots you can gently pull back on the mouse to raise the plane's nose. Alternatively, you can sit back and wait for the plane to catch enough lift to take off by itself.

UP, UP AND AWAY

Once you're in the sky (you see the altimeter winding clockwise), press ; to retract the landing gear and that's it – you're flying. You can now experiment with the various views to find out what's out there. When you've seen enough, press ESC followed by e to exit the game and return to the main menu screen. If you think you're ready, use the File menu to get you into terminal mode where you can log on to the on-Line network and fly against a host of beginners and experts in the biggest dogfight of your life.

COMMAND LINE COMMANDS

e – End mission (you must be on the ground and stationary)
p – Parachute
s – Sight control
sf – Set the target width to a fighter wing span
sb – Set the target width to a bomber wing span
ss – Turn the gunsight pipper off
sr – Turn the sight reticule on/off
t <number> Set the radio channel. The number must be between 0 and 999 inclusive.
/<text> Send <text> over the radio (eg. /eat hot lead).
'<text> Send <text> over the intercom to all crew members (eg. 'starting bombing run).
r – Display a roster of all players in flight
m<number> Set the range of the radar. The number must be between 0 and 2 inclusive.
a – Arm/Disarm bombs (and open/close bomb bay doors if present)
j<a..z> Jump between turrets in a plane.
w – Where am I?
n – Display the nationalities and their icon colors
Ctl X – Erase the command line and re-prompt
Ctl U – Erase the command line and return to immediate mode

HOLD-DOWN KEYS
Alternate Apply brakes while on the ground

ST INFORMATION

PROGRAM: Air Warrior
DESCRIPTION: Game
FOLDER: ST/AIRWAR
FILE(S):AIR.PRG, AIRLOW.RSC, AIRMED.RSC, AIRWARL.DAT, AIRWARM.DAT, COMMANDS.TXT, READ_ME, TERRAIN.DAT

LOADING THE ST GAME

In comparison to the Amiga, loading the ST version of Air Warrior is much easier, mainly because we didn't have to archive it to fit it on the disk.

Before you do anything, make a back-up of the Cover Disk. See the instructions on how to do this elsewhere on this page.

To load the game, click on the ST folder on the Cover Disk and then click on AIR.PRG to load the game. That's it, no more needs to be done.

There are two document files which can be viewed Click on the COMMANDS.TXT and READ_ME files. Click on SHOW to display the documents. To make reading the files easier, change to medium resolution by going to the Options menu, selecting Set Preferences and then set it to medium resolution. ■

ST BACK-UP COPY

Be warned that because the disk is a complicated format, some of these instructions could be a bit tricky.

1 Format at least one blank disk.

2 Write protect the original *Express* Cover Disk (with the notch open so you can see the hole through the disk) and insert it into the drive. If you've got two drives, insert the Cover Disk into drive B. Double click on the drive B icon to open a window showing the contents of the Cover Disk. If you've only got a single drive a message appears asking you to put disk B in drive A. Just click on OK.

3 Insert one of the blank formatted disks into drive A (removing the Cover Disk if you only have one drive). Double click on the drive A icon and open up another window. You may be asked to insert disk A in drive A - you already have, so do nothing and just click on OK.

4 Highlight the ST folder in the drive B Cover Disk window and drag it into the drive A window.

5 If you only have one drive, you're asked to insert disk A and disk B at regular intervals. Be careful not to mix the two disks up! Remember, Disk B is the original Cover Disk and disk A is the newly formatted blank disk.

PC

PC INFORMATION

PROGRAM: Tex
DIRECTORY: PC
FILE(S): TEX.EXE

Type GO.BAT to see the contents of the disk.
NOTE: MS-DOS must be loaded on your system before you use the Cover Disk.

Often when you need to change or create a basic text or batch file on the PC, you have to either load up a large text editor or word processor or, even worse, make do with MS-DOS' horrible EDLIN command.

With *Tex*, however, you can do all these things easily, and it can stay resident in memory while you use other programs; accessible at the touch of a key.

Incidentally, PC owners who are now wishing they had an Amiga or an ST can get off the ground with their PCs with *Air Warrior* next week.

TO START THE PROGRAM

Go to the PC directory and copy TEX.EXE to a blank formatted disk or a directory on your hard drive.

HARD DRIVE INSTRUCTIONS

To make a directory on your hard drive, enter C:\ and then type MKDIR TEX or MD TEX. This will create a directory called TEX. Change to that directory by typing CD TEX.

Now, go back to the A:\ drive and change to the PC directory: type CD PC. Then copy TEX.EXE across to the hard drive by typing: COPY TEX.EXE C: which will transfer the file to the hard drive.

FLOPPY DISK INSTRUCTIONS

To copy *Tex* to another floppy disk, insert the Cover Disk into the floppy disk and go to the A:\ drive (type A:\). To copy the file, enter CD PC and then type COPY TEX.EXE B:. The computer will ask you to swap disks and the file will be copied.

Tex is a self-extracting archive. When it is run it will decompact itself into a larger file, which will take up more space than the original did.

USING *TEX*

To access the program's functions, press the Esc key and then the first letter of the option you wish to choose. In most cases this will bring up a sub-menu of options; these options are also obtainable by pressing the first letter of each option name.
Here are the functions:
A – Again – repeat last search or replace
B – Block – move cursor to end of block then copy, delete, print or write
C – Calculator – accesses mathematical functions
E – Edit – edit the text file
F – File – back-up, load, merge, print or save the file
H – Help – displays the help screen
I – Insert – insert characters in the text file
J – Jump – move to line number or position
K – Key – saves keystrokes to be used as macros
L – List – list the lines containing a string
M – Memory – displays amount of memory used
O – Option – changes options
Q – Quit – exits editor after saving the file or calls DOS
R – Replace – replace one string of text by another
S – Search – search for a string of characters
T – Tag – tag (or mark) a cursor position in the text file
W – Wrap – wraps the words in the current paragraph
<ALT> F1 – input ASCII values
<ALT> F2 – gives ASCII value of the character under the cursor
<ALT> F3 – displays the ASCII table
<ALT> F4 – matches bracket under cursor ■

PC BACK-UP COPY

Be warned that because the disk is a complicated format, some of these instructions could be a bit tricky.

1 If you've only got a floppy drive-based system, format at least one blank disk. Otherwise use your hard drive.

2 Write protect the original *Express* Cover Disk (with the notch open so you can see the hole through the disk).

3 Use the XCOPY command to make the backup. If you have only one floppy drive, load XCOPY from the system disk from drive A:\ with the /S option to copy the files across. So, to copy the files across type: XCOPY A:\PC\*.* B: /S.Then it is just a matter of swapping disks in and out of the drive until the Cover Disk is copied. Don't worry if you think you must have two drives – the XCOPY command will treat your single drive as both, or it will copy to the B:\ drive if, in fact, you do have two drives.

4 If you have a hard drive, put the Cover Disk in drive A:\, then type: XCOPY A:\PC\*.* C: /S to copy all the subdirectories to the hard drive.

AIR WARRIOR PLAYER'S GUIDE

IMMEDIATE MODE COMMANDS

Esc – Enter command line mode
x – Enter/Exit expert flight controls mode
w – Raise the flaps one notch
e – Lower the flaps one notch
f – Fire guns
b – Drop bombs
c – Increase throttle 10%
C – Set throttle at 100%
v – Decrease throttle 10%
V – Set throttle to 0%
; – Raise/Lower landing gear
Ctrl C –Engage/Release War Emergency Power
n – Enter/Exit cockpit view during film playback.
a – Move rudder one notch to the left (expert mode)
s – Centre the rudder (expert mode)
d – Move the rudder one notch to the right (expert mode)
1 – Use FULL picture range (displays most terrain)
2 – Use MEDIUM picture range
3 – Use SHORT picture range
4 – Use COMBAT picture range
5 – Use ABRIDGED picture range (fastest frame rate)
[– Increase sight by 1x OR move gunsight range closer by 100 yds OR move towards plane during film playback.
] – Decrease sight by 1x OR move gunsight range out by 100 yds OR move away from plane during film playback.
F1 – Picture display mode
F2 – Radar display mode
F3 – Bombsight display mode
F4 – Text buffer display mode
F5 – Arm/Disarm bombs (and open/close bay doors)
F6 – Gun Sight / Dive Bomb Sight
F7 – Gun tracers On/Off
F8 – Engine sound On/Off
F9 – Start/Stop camera OR Stop film playback
F10 – Start/Stop engine(s) (in flight)
Display elapsed time (in playback)

VIEW CONTROLS
UpArrow Look forward
DownArrow Look backward
LeftArrow Look left
RightArrow Look right

FIGURES OF FUN

Despite downturns elsewhere in the economy, the games industry is going great guns. Over the past 12 months the number of full-price games sold for all machines has risen by 80 per cent. Andy Storer takes time out with his favourite leisure title, *Excel 3* for the Mac, to dig down deeper...

It appears to have been a bumper year for UK leisure software publishers – as long as they've been concentrating on 16-bit titles. For there are now nearly three times more full-price 16-bit games being sold than last summer, but 8-bit games are suffering a slump with sales down by a third.

Why this should be the case is, of course, no surprise – 1990/1991 year has seen a record number of 16-bit hardware sales. So, for example, during the peak buying periods of November and December, the Commodore 64 sold only a few thousand full-price games less than the Amiga, but over the whole year, the massively expanding Amiga market accounted for nearly twice as many games sales as the C64.

Elsewhere within the 8-bit market, the picture is similarly depressing. Sales of Spectrum games were down 35 per cent, CPC games down 45 per cent and C64 down 24 per cent. Even in the budget sector, 8-bit sales dropped significantly. Only the newly emerging 16-bit budget games managed to save the sector as a whole from also dropping by a third.

PC OUT SELLS GAMES KING

But in the 16-bit world, everyone is smiling. PC full-price games sales were up nearly 300 per cent, Amiga sales up 175 per cent and even the ST, a machine that many feel is on the downward slope, secured an increase of 30 per cent. Indeed, such has been the rise of the PC compatibles as a major games platform, that during the last three months they've been selling more units than the ST – the one-time games king. And that doesn't include returns from such US PC heavyweights as Sierra, Origin and Microprose.

While this may make very depressing reading for Atari, Commodore should be looking carefully over its shoulder. PC games sales are currently growing at nearly double the pace of the Amiga .

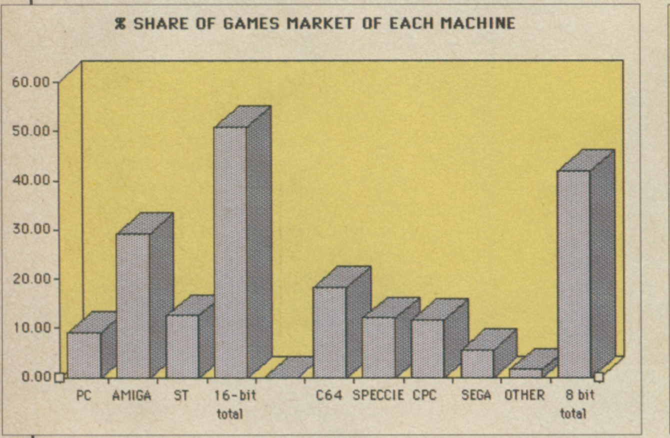
BREAKING THE MOULD

So, it all looks set to be a mould-breaking year ahead with the PC finally replacing the ST to join the Amiga in dominating the leisure market. The underlying reason is not too difficult to define. There are estimated to be something like 500,000 PCs in the home with a further two million in offices. With VGA graphics boards now avaliable at rock bottom prices and a wealth of software being released to exploit their impressive 256 colour tech spec, PC owners are finally getting round to forking out for some fun to fill in the hours between spreadsheeting and word processing.

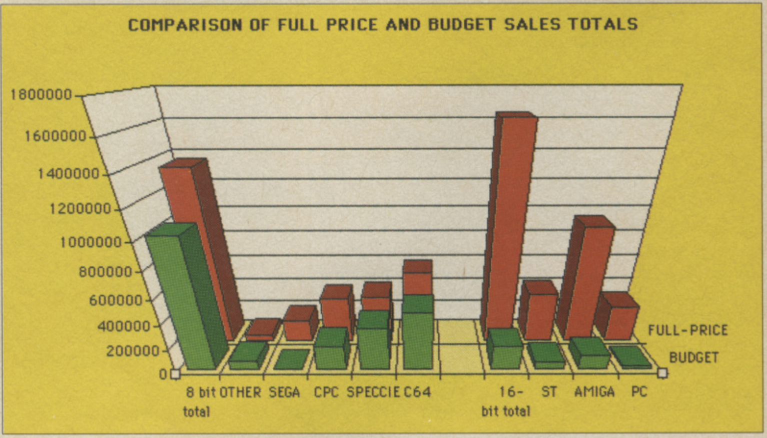
And they're doing it with a vengeance. After years of being laughed at for enduring the rigours of four colour CGA games and the half-way house of 16 colour EGA, the PC user can now claim tech specs at least equal to, if not better than, the Amiga in terms of speed and colour.

THE FUN STARTS HERE

Sound too has changed beyond recognition - the beep echoing into the ether forever with the arrival of sub-£100 stereo cards. But it's not just a case of existing PC owners suddenly deciding that the fun starts here. With PC hardware prices dropping to the point where you can walk into a shop and leave with a VGA PC for not much more than the price of an Amiga and monitor, there's a whole new generation out there looking at PCs in a new light. Rumours of a leading high street supplier



• Both Commodore's machines lead their respective markets...



• It's obvious which machines publishers are going to sink development cash into...

SO HOW DOES YOUR MACHINE'S GAMES

PC

You and your fellow owners are now buying four times as many full-price games as you were last year. During the peak buying period last November and December, the ST was selling half as many games again as the PC, but since May this year your machine is now selling more games than the ST. However, you are currently only selling about a third of the number of games the Amiga is. Of the average cost of a game, around £25, the publisher producing it is receiving around £10 to recover its costs.

The future: looking brilliant.

What PC manufacturers should do: bundle all the bits together.

AMIGA

You are undoubtedly the leader of the pack. Over the year you sold double the amount of games of your nearest 16-bit rival – the ST. And Amiga owners are now buying three times as many games as they were this time last year. Over the year, sales were growing at an average rate of 30 per cent a month, bringing in the publishers cited here around £9 a game on sales of 940,000 units.

The future: looking good.

What Commodore should do: enjoy the ride.

ST

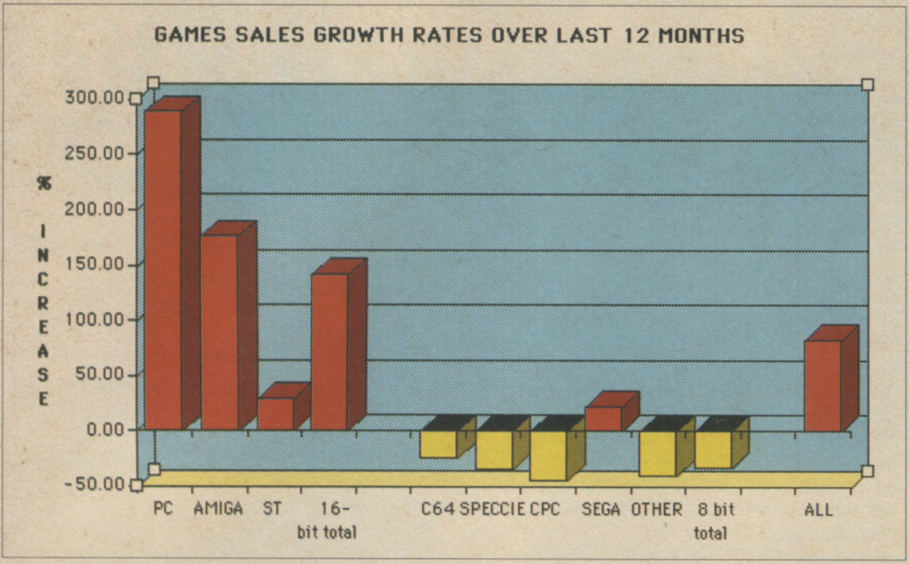
Although industry insiders say your machine has peaked in terms of games sales, they're still up by 30 per cent over the past year. On the other hand, you've lost 30 per cent of your market share! This apparent contradiction is because your increase in sales has to be seen in the light of a 150 per cent increase in the size of the 16-bit market as a whole. As a general rule, your software publisher gets around £8.50 for every game.

The future: wait for the STE to take-off!

What Atari should do: encourage developers to work on the STE

COMMODORE 64:

Your performance during November and December is second only to the Amiga in terms of units sold. But these are often six times the numbers you sell at other times of the year – a fact which means your sales are down by a quarter. Even in the budget charts,



• The graph which shows it all - the massive increase in 16-bit sales and the demise of the 8-bits

releasing a £399 386 VGA PC can only further propel this trend forward at an even faster rate, as can the emergence of three new PC games magazines in as many months – the best of course being our own sister mag *PC Format*!

GROWING CONSOLE MARKET

Another reason for Atari and Commodore to start to re-address the market with new, better specified, hardware is the growth of the console market. Atari already seems to have given up the ghost of the ST as a games platform – pushing its cash into the Lynx and Falcon machines. Commodore, though, has no such plans at present. The former 16-bit beauties are being squeezed between the PCs and consoles quicker than they cope with. Although Nintendo doesn't choose to publish cartridge sales for its NES and Gameboy in this country, Sega does and it's only too readily apparent that the company's Master System and Mega Drive are making deep incursions into the full-price market, largely at the expense of the ST and 8-bit machines.

What's more worrying for owners of these latter machines, is that the margins on Sega cartridges – that's the money the software house actually gets back once the retailers and Inland Revenue have taken their cut – is double that of an ST and Amiga game and four times that of the 8-bits. This is largely because there are less publishers competing to produce the Sega titles and the cost of the cartridges is a lot more than disk or tape. Overheads aside, in a profit conscious industry it doesn't take much intelligence to work out which format to publish for, does it? ■

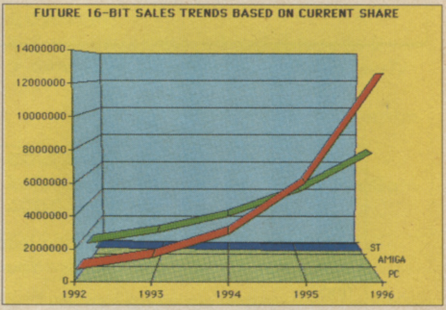
FIGURE FORMING

The figures forming the basis of this article are derived from tables and charts complied by the European Leisure Software Publishers Association (ELSPA) from data supplied by 14 UK publishers. The reports are published monthly for ELSPA members.

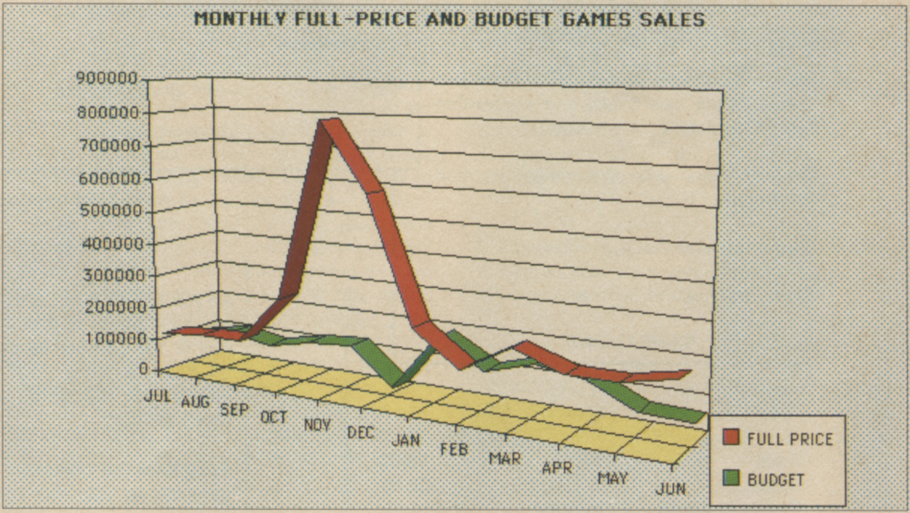
While the figures do not include returns from such notables as Ocean, Microprose, Sierra and Origin, yet do include sales forwarded by relatively small publishers, *Express* has taken the returns to be fairly representative samples from which to extrapolate percentage calculations.

We have drawn conclusions from the samples to establish trends in the market, but cannot conclude what the overall figures would be if all publishers were willing to submit returns.

Express would like to thank ELSPA for making these monthly reports available.



• So that's it - by 1995 the PC will be king - but Express's private bet is that it'll be a lot sooner!



• Recession? - what recession? full price games sales soar during Xmas - budget titles barely budge!

BUT THERE ARE LIES, DAMN LIES AND STATISTICS...

The great thing about statistics is that you can use them to prove just about anything you want. So what conclusion would you draw from the enclosed figures? Just send them in to 'Fun with figures' NCE, 30 Monmouth Street, Bath BA1 2BW and we'll publish them in a letters page special. We'll be including the industry's responses too.

SALES RATE ALONG WITH THE REST?

sales are down too, but you're still miles ahead of the Spectrum and CPC in both markets and still sell more full-price games than the ST and PC. For every game you buy, the publisher gets around £4.85 – the rest going to retailers and the tax man.

The future: keep buying those titles – all year!

What Commodore should do: support that 3.5-inch drive with a C64 bundle!

CPC

Sales this June were nearly 45 per cent down on July last year, despite the launch of the new machines. So just reconcile yourself with the fact that these figures are inaccurate. You and your mates are still buying at least half a million units a year – and that's just from 14 companies – so things can't be all that bad. On the bright side, your presence in the budget market is better than the C64's and Speccie's. Every game you buy makes its publisher about £6.25 – and that's to cover everything from coding to promotion. The rest goes to the shop you bought it from, its distributors and Her Majesty's coffers.

The future: hang on in there!

What Amstrad should do: start pushing the cartridge formats more

SPECTRUM

During November your machine sold more full-price games than any other except the Amiga – though for the last six months it's been selling at least 10 times less. As such, sales are down a third. In the budget stakes you've experienced an even bigger drop – down by 42 per cent since last July. The publisher of your game gets the least back from any machine format – around £3.90 per title.

The future: times are changing.

What Amstrad should do: drop the price even more?

SEGA

Sales are on the up and up and look set to continue. During June you almost sold more games than the PC and ST put together - and that was in summer, traditionally the worst time. This sales figure even surpassed the November and December figures – a quite remarkable feat. Who knows what the limit will be on Christmas sales this year?

The future: the sky's the limit.

What Sega should do: reduce the price of cartridges.

BBC ACORN USER SHOW '91

* THE SHOW *

*A unique Show dedicated to the world of Acorn and BBC computers with both existing and potential users in mind.

*A Show which brings together the best and latest in the Acorn market ranging from the widely used and much loved 8-bit computers right through to the up-to-the-minute 32-bit machines.

*A Show fully supported by Acorn Computers themselves who will be sponsoring many of the technical and informative activities.

*A Show presented in association with BBC Acorn User Magazine, a long established and respected publication, well informed on BBC and Acorn computer matters.

*A Show designed to entertain as well as provide opportunities for purchasing a wide variety of hardware and software, often at special Show prices.

* A Show NOT to be missed!! *

* THE FEATURES *

*Fantastic Theatre providing on-going product information, computing techniques and tips, entertainment, competition prizes, celebrity spots and much more, all with a light hearted flavour.

*Personal appearance by CAROL VORDERMAN all day Saturday and LINFORD CHRISTIE and friends on other days subject to sporting activities.

*Computer problem "Clinics".

*Fabulous Games Arcade and High Score competitions. (Try the VERY LATEST games for the Archimedes).

*BBC Acorn User Magazine "Editor's Office".

*Schools Projects including in-house production of the unique BBC Acorn Show newsletter.

*Club Corner.

*Mock Classroom with Schools' activities.

*Rest-Your-Legs lounge area.

*Competitions.

*FREE Show Guide with all adult tickets.

MUCH, MUCH MORE

* THE EXHIBITORS *

*Exhibitors represent many of the leading companies in the Acorn world. You will find;

*Software houses and distributors with programs covering the range from games right through to sophisticated desk-top publishing or image processing.

*Acorn appointed dealers with their own special offers and deals, and some from Acorn Computers themselves.

*Special peripheral manufacturers and distributors.

*Publishers and Clubs.

*Consumables and Accessories.

MANY MORE

* THE VENUE *

There are fewer places in the nation better known than Wembley. Renowned for its Stadium, Event, Exhibition and Conference facilities, the BBC Acorn User Show '91 will provide both visitors and Exhibitors alike with a first class venue.

Excellent Rail, Road and Air links make it easy for visitors to reach Wembley. Massive on-site parking (NCP) is available for those travelling by car and a free shuttle bus will operate from Wembley Park Underground Station.

A variety of snack bars and restaurants will provide light refreshments throughout the open days.

* THE CONCERT *

A FABULOUS 60's CONCERT will take place in the Grand Hall of the Conference Centre on Friday evening (11th October 1991) with legendary groups HERMAN'S HERMITS, and THE BRUVVERS with the great MIKE BERRY.

Bring back the memories, sing along with your old favourites and generally let your hair down. See the Exhibition during the day and stay on for the Concert in the evening. DON'T MISS THE FUN!

Why not see the Concert and stay in London overnight and visit the Exhibition on Saturday. A great way to enjoy a trip to the Big City.

Concert tickets are all one price at a modest £10.50 each and are available from the Wembley Box Office - Tel. 081 900 1234.

* TIMES AND PRICES *

Tickets at Door;

Adult	£6.00
Under 16	£4.00
Family (2 Adults & 2 Children)	£16.00
Under 5's	FREE

Advance Tickets - use coupon below

FRIDAY 11th October 1991	- 10.00 a.m. - 6.00 p.m.
SATURDAY 12th October 1991	- 10.00 a.m. - 6.00 p.m.
SUNDAY 13th October 1991	- 10.00 a.m. - 5.00 p.m.

Please note - Pushchairs are not allowed in the Exhibition Halls.

ADVANCE TICKET APPLICATION FOR THE BBC ACORN USER SHOW

Please Rush me; .... Adult Tickets at £5.00 Advance Discount Rate
.... Under 16 Tickets at £3.00 Advance Discount Rate
.... Family Tickets at £13.00 Advance Discount Rate

I enclose Cheque/Postal Order for £................ made out to SAFESELL EXHIBITIONS LTD

NAME ....

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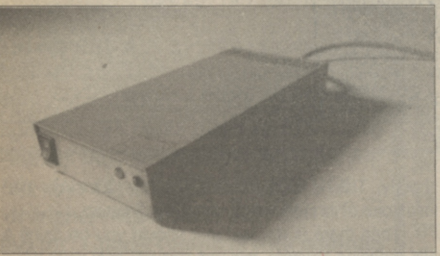
RETURN THIS FORM TO SAFESELL EXHIBITIONS LTD, MARKET HOUSE,
CROSS ROAD, TADWORTH, SURREY, KT20 5SR TEL. 0737 814084

WEMBLEY
CONFERENCE AND
EXHIBITION CENTRE

ON A SCREEN NEAR YOU...

The latest 16-bit software and hardware reviewed in bite-sized chunks

PRODUCT:	**Power 40Mb Slimline hard drive**
COMPATIBILITY:	**ST**
FROM:	**Power Computing**
CONTACT:	**0234 843388**



• Slim, but powerful, the Power Slimline hard drive is ideal for the first time buyer

Living up to its name, the Power Slimline measures a mere 240mm by 110mm by 40 mm and fits neatly into the same space that a floppy drive would occupy. It comes in two versions, one with an external power supply and one that uses a direct connection to your ST's own internal power supply.

The Power Slimline features an ICD drive inside its casing, which can be configured to auto-boot and auto-park, making it easy to look after. A utility programs disk is supplied to help you set it all up the way you want.

The case has two small LEDs for showing the power is on and whether the drive head is accessing data. On the rear panel is the DMA input socket that connects to the ST's DMA port, but sadly there is no DMA output port for chaining other hard drives together.

The Power Slimline performs well, but occasionally exhibits a tendency not to "wake up", especially if the DMA plugs have been removed and replaced prior to re-booting. This may be because you need to use a screwdriver to adjust the screw-down connectors – thumbscrews would have been more effective. It's usually possible to get the drive back on-line within three reset attempts, but it can be annoying. Three Slimlines tested all exhibited this problem when connected to a variety of STs. The Power Slimline is a cheap and tidy system and quick to install, but not recommended for serious users. An ideal first-time hard drive buy if you don't need to expand much further. ■

VALUE FOR MONEY?

FOR

▲ Small and neat, fits anywhere
▲ Simple to set up and use

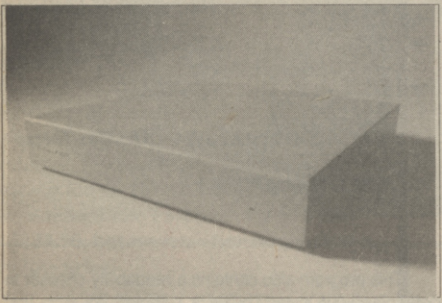
AGAINST

▼ Can't attach more hard drives to it
▼ Sometimes won't auto-boot properly

COST: £299 VALUE: Average

COMPETITION: SupraDrive 40Mb, Reference 40Mb, Vortex 40Mb, ProGate 40DC

PRODUCT:	**ProGate 40DC hard drive**
COMPATIBILITY:	**ST**
FROM:	**Protar**
CONTACT:	**0923 54133**



• The ProGate 40DC hard drive – worth the extra money for its quality and reliability

Technology and Germany go hand in hand and the ProGate 40DC hard drive is no exception. It's designed to look like a hard drive – big and solid – reflecting the efficient, no-frills way it operates.

Protar's ProGate includes a versatile installation package, making many others look positively under-equipped. As well as the ability to cope with other manufacturers' hard drive systems, Protar's utilities can give you password protection and write-disabling on any drive partition, a screen-saver and a floppy backup of the partition info for use in an emergency. The ProGate is capable of auto-booting and auto-parking and has an on-board 64K RAM cache to speed up drive accessing.

While Protar has copied the Atari specification exactly to minimise compatibility problems, you may find it difficult to understand the instructions since they are written in German. Hopefully these will be translated as demand for the system picks up, as it is sure to.

But the ProGate's redeeming qualities make up for the inconveniences of a foreign language. Versatility oozes from the drive; it carries its own internal power supply and it can be re-configured to form part of a chain-system using the drive-identifier switches that have thoughtfully been placed on the rear of the casing.

If you want quality and reliability, then the ProGate 40DC is ideal for you. It can form part of a larger system if expansion is where you're headed, but is so easy to use that a beginner would find it indispensable too. ■

WORTH THE EXTRA COST?

FOR

▲ Loads of extras included
▲ Quiet and efficient
▲ Solid and reliable

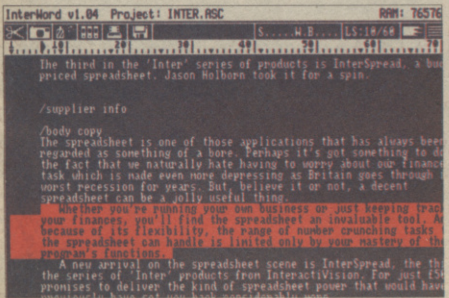
AGAINST

▼ Instructions in German
▼ Not as fast as some drives
▼ Large amount of space needed

COST: £423 VALUE: Excellent

COMPETITION: SupraDrive 40Mb, Reference 40Mb, Vortex 40Mb, Power Slimline 40Mb

PRODUCT:	**InterWord**
COMPATIBILITY:	**Amiga**
FROM:	**CentreSoft**
CONTACT:	**021 625 3388**



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The third in the 'Inter' series of products is InterSpread, a bud
priced spreadsheet. Jason Holborn took it for a spin.


/supplier info

/body copy
The spreadsheet is one of those applications that has always been
regarded as something of a bore. Perhaps it's got something to do
the fact that we naturally hate having to worry about our finance
task which is made even more depressing as Britain goes through t
worst recession for years. But, believe it or not, a decent
spreadsheet can be a jolly useful thing.
   Whether you're running your own business or just keeping track
your finances, you'll find the spreadsheet an invaluable tool. An
because of its flexibility, the range of number crunching tasks t
the spreadsheet can handle is limited only by your mastery of the
program's functions.
   A new arrival on the spreadsheet scene is InterSpread, the thi
the series of 'Inter' products from InteractiVision. For just £5
promises to deliver the kind of spreadsheet power that would have
```

•If you're looking for serious, no-nonsense word processing, then *InterWord* is the program for you

With the release of such cracking programs as Arnor's *Protext* and the excellent *Wordworth* from Digita, Amiga users wanting to produce anything from a letter to a book have never had it so good. The range of Amiga word processors is now so vast that finding the program best for you is almost impossible.

A new arrival is *InterWord*, a budget priced WP from a Dutch company called InterActiVision. It must be stressed that *InterWord* is not a 'word publishing' program in the same vein as *Wordworth*. It doesn't let you import graphics and any font other than the standard topaz system font, which is definitely out. What it will do is process words, which it does very well indeed.

It has the features you'd expect from a decent word processor including cut, copy and pasting of blocks, search and replace, adjustable margins, soft hyphenation plus a spell checker which comes with a huge 137,000 word dictionary.A most impressive feature, though, is its speed – even when working on larger documents, *InterWord* moves faster than a nitroed Ferrari.

InterWord has its faults, but overall is a real gem of a program. It may not offer the kind of document layout controls of such programs as *ProWrite 3.0* and *Excellence!*, but for churning out large amounts of text, it's only rival is Arnor's *Protext* (which is considerably more expensive).

If you're after a serious, no-nonsense word processor, then this could well be the one to go for. ■

THE ONE TO GO FOR?

FOR

▲ Very fast operation
▲ Comprehensive spell checker
▲ Quick and easy to use editing options

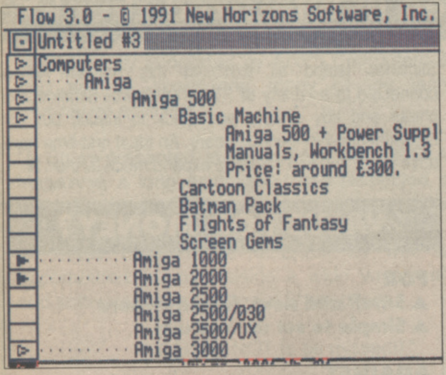
AGAINST

▼ Does not come with a thesaurus

COST: £50 VALUE: Super

COMPETITION: *Protext 5.5, Transcript, QuickWrite*

PRODUCT: Flow 3.0
COMPATIBILITY: Amiga
FROM: Silica systems
CONTACT: 081 309 1111



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Flow 3.0 - © 1991 New Horizons Software, Inc.
□ Untitled #3
▷ Computers
▷ ·····Amiga
▷ ··········Amiga 500
▷ ···············Basic Machine
                      Amiga 500 + Power Suppl
                      Manuals, Workbench 1.3
                      Price: around £300.
                 Cartoon Classics
                 Batman Pack
                 Flights of Fantasy
                 Screen Gems
▶ ··········Amiga 1000
▶ ··········Amiga 2000
            Amiga 2500
            Amiga 2500/030
            Amiga 2500/UX
▷ ··········Amiga 3000
```

• So you're full of ideas, but not sure what to do with them? *Flow 3.0* puts your ideas into order

New Horizon's *Flow* is one of those products that, despite the fact it has been around longer than any of us dare to mention, very few people have actually even heard of it. In truth, it's not surprising – New Horizons pushed it briefly when it was first released back in 1985, but it's been gathering dust on the top shelf of most software stores ever since.

Now the company has injected a new lease of life into the product with the release of *Flow 3.0* (what happened to *Flow 2.0*?). If you don't already know, *Flow* is an ideas processor. It allows you to organise your thoughts and ideas by arranging them into an outline which can be expanded upon until you have sorted your ideas into an organised and readable format.

It can also be used to organise large amounts of information, allowing you to flick through viewing only the information you require. Idea sheets are created by producing a sort of tree structure containing all your data. Say, for example, you wanted to organise information on a particular subject – modern cars for example. You might well start off by organising the cars into countries of origin. This would then break down into manufacturer and car model with the information ending with a breakdown of the car's specification.

Version 3.0 of *Flow* has a number of new features including a spell checker (which offers a fairly comprehensive 50,000 word dictionary) and full support for ARexx.

Flow is definitely one of those products that has a very limited audience, but it's a useful tool nonetheless. It would have been nice to have been able to cross-reference information in a hypertext manner, but then that's probably beyond the scope of the program.

Gripes aside, if you need to organise data, but don't need the sophistication of a database, then *Flow* could be worth investigating. ■

A GOOD BUY?

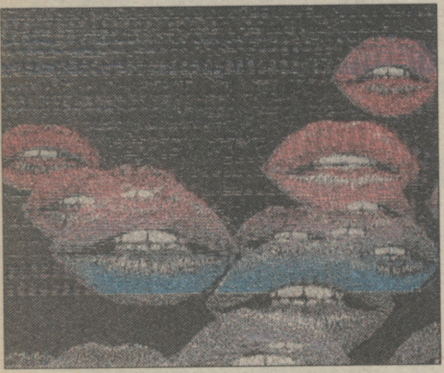
FOR
- ▲ Very easy to use
- ▲ Manual is excellent

AGAINST
- ▼ Cannot cross reference information
- ▼ Rather limited in appeal

COST: £79.95 **VALUE:** Good

COMPETITION: None known

PRODUCT: ScreenWorks
COMPATIBILITY: PC
FROM: The Software Toolworks
CONTACT: 0444 831761



•Simple to use, *ScreenWorks* extends the life fo your screen with moving images

Every computer user should be aware of the result of leaving a screen on for too long. The continuous display of the same image starts to burn into the screen. Although this may not appear serious, it can reduce the life and quality of the display.

Screen savers have been around for quite some time. These are memory resident programs that wait for the computer to show signs of inactivity. When at rest, an image comes up, and moves around the screen to rectify the problem.

Expert For Windows has developed *ScreenWorks* saver for windows users. The beauty of using Windows is its simplicity of use, so there will never be any complaints about *ScreenWorks* installation and operation. This program comes complete with seven screens that can be displayed when the computer is inactive, ranging from two hot air balloons, to a worrying set of lips that tenderly kiss your screen.

There are a million and one screen savers available in Shareware, so why should you buy a commercial package? When you consider that ScreenWorks comes complete with its own library of more than 75 icons for use within *Windows*, there is a bargain to be had.

As with every program, *ScreenWorks* has its faults. Although the images are good, their updates are rather shoddy. This is most evident with the 3D cube, that loses one of its sides when changing direction.

Then there is the fact that should you be using a 286 machine or lower, this program will only work while you are operating *Windows*, which could be annoying.

On the plus side, there are the icons that can cost up to £90 alone. This is a good screen saver, with a great bonus of a couple of icons, so you can save your screen and make it look better at the same time. ■

HOW DOES IT RATE?

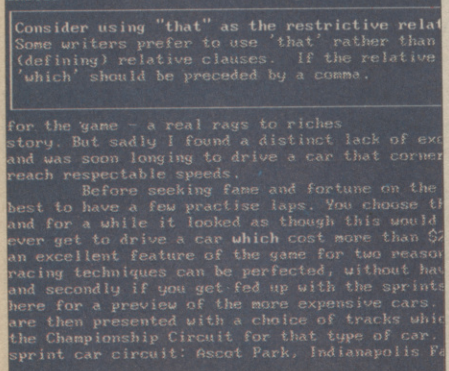
FOR
- ▲ Extra icons
- ▲ Extends life of screen

AGAINST
- ▼ Does not work on DOS programs with 286 and lower
- ▼ Screen updates are shoddy

COST: £35.24 **VALUE:** Good

COMPETITION: None known

PRODUCT: Correct Grammar
COMPATIBILITY: PC
FROM: Lifetree (Wordstar)
CONTACT: 081 643 8866



```
Choice              1 Correct  2 Skip              4 Edit
Consider using "that" as the restrictive relat
Some writers prefer to use 'that' rather than
(defining) relative clauses.  If the relative
'which' should be preceded by a comma.

for the game - a real rags to riches
story. But sadly I found a distinct lack of exc
and was soon longing to drive a car that corner
reach respectable speeds.
        Before seeking fame and fortune on the
best to have a few practise laps. You choose th
and for a while it looked as though this would
ever get to drive a car which cost more than $2
an excellent feature of the game for two reason
racing techniques can be perfected, without hav
and secondly if you get fed up with the sprints
here for a preview of the more expensive cars.
are then presented with a choice of tracks whic
the Championship Circuit for that type of car.
sprint car circuit: Ascot Park, Indianapolis Fa

Each requires a different driving technique and
```

•Spelling mistakes and grammatical errors need no longer be a problem with *Correct Grammar*

Correct Grammar has been on the market for a few months, but has been relaunched due to its recent purchase by the former good guys of the word processor world, WordStar.

This is one of the most professional grammar/spell checkers available on the market. *Correct Grammar* differs from the majority of grammar checkers by the way it reads a document. Most checkers scan over small portions of words, and then decide if the scanned sentence is grammatically correct. *Correct Grammar*, on the other hand, scans most of a paragraph before making a decision over its content. This gives the program a much better chance to find any mistakes and work out what is the best possible solution to the problem.

This program, as you would expect, is capable of reading in files from the most popular word processors (including *WordStar*, surprise, surprise). But should the word processor that you use not be one of the extensive list, then *Correct Grammar* can always read in standard ASCII files.

In addition to this programs grammar/spelling detection and correction facilities, there are a couple of bonuses to be had. As this is an American product, this program can be set to check for both checking American and British usage. This could prove more than useful for those that send letters to both sides of the pond.

This program also contains a readability checker to determine your style. This is a complex equation that examines the 'ease-of-read' of your document.

This program is a must for PC users who take pride in their documentation, but are not sure of the quality of the grammar in their writing. Even if you feel that you're a talented wordsmith without any flaws, the readability checker in *Correct Grammar* could prove more than just a little interesting. ■

IS IT WORTH BUYING?

FOR
- ▲ Checks paragraphs, rather than words
- ▲ Readability checker
- ▲ Checks for both Americanand British usage

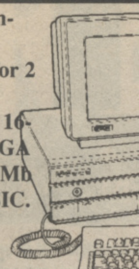
AGAINST
- ▼ Inconvenient operation should word processor be incompatible

COST: £89 **VALUE:** Good

COMPETITION: *Gramtic*

MAJOR STOCK CLEARANCE

EPSON 286/40Mb/VGA

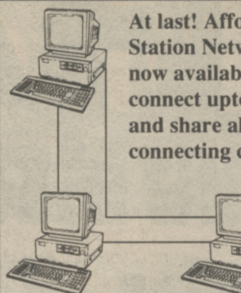


A great machine for newcomers to 286 computing. 80286 processor running @6/8/12MHZ. 1.2Mb Floppy disk drive, (room for 2 more), serial & parallel port, 640k RAM (expandable), 7 empty expansion slots(8 & 16-bit), AT keyboard, battery back-up, 14" VGA Colour monitor with tilt & swivel base, 40 Mb 30ms Hard Disk, MS-DOS 3.3 & GW-BASIC. Full English Manuals.

£649.95

Plus VAT & Carr. £775.00

AMSTRAD NETWORKS



At last! Affordable networking. The complete AMSTRAD 3-Station Network system, based on the CORVUS system, is now available for under £100.00. This package enables you to connect upto 3 PC/XT's or PC/AT's in a networking system and share all facilities. The kit contains interface cards, connecting cable, junction boxes, software on 3.5" & 5.25" disks and full documentation. Why not send today for fuller details?

£99.95

Plus VAT & Carr. £125.00

286 16MHz/VGA Colour

with 40 or 90Mb Hard Disk

Probably the best 286 AT buy-of-the-year. Check these features against the price. 80286 processor running @ 8/16MHz, 200 watt power supply, 102 key-keyboard, 1Mb RAM expandable to 8Mb on-board, 1.2 Mb. 5.25" Floppy disk drive,(with space for 2 more), 2 serial & 1 parallel port, Small Footprint, Real-Time-Clock with battery back-up, MS-DOS 3.3 & GW-BASIC, 14" VGA Colour Monitor made by Samtron, and a fast 40Mb. hard disk made by CDC (subsidiary of SEAGATE). Full documentation.

£699.95

Plus VAT & Carriage £840.00

With a 90Mb Hard Disk (18ms) replacing the 40Mb Hard Disk

£799.95

Plus VAT & Carriage £955.00

3-BUTTON MOUSE

Microsoft Compatible for the PC.

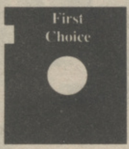
Sturdy construction together with compact design make this a superb value-for-money buy. Microsoft compatible for use on virtually any PC. with MS-DOS 2.0 or higher. Standard 9-pin "D" connector. Comes complete with manuals and drivers for most popular software packages including LOTUS 123/dBASE & WORDPERFECT. Supplied on 5.25" Disk.

£17.00

Plus VAT & Carr. £25.00

PFS: FIRST CHOICE

A complete integrated package

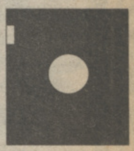


The perfect software partner for any PC. A completely integrated software package supplied on 5.25" disks comprising of Database, Wordprocessor with spell-checker & Thesaurus, Spreadsheet, Presentation Graphics, & Electronic Communications. This package still sells for $189.00, but we have limited stock at a very low price.

£25.50 Plus VAT & Carr. £35.00

WORDSTAR VER 4.0

with Spellchecker & Thesaurus



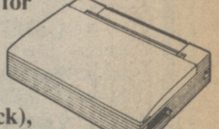
Wordstar Professional Version 4.0. Not to be confused with cheaper versions, this is the package that originally sold at over £200. Amongst the many features are spelling-checker, thesaurus, word-count, etc. Supplied on 6x5.25" disks together with in-depth detailed manual.

£42.50

Plus VAT & Carr. £55.00

CANON BUBBLEJET

Model BJ10E



The perfect printer for all your needs. 83 cps in HQ mode, portable (with the optional battery pack), standard parallel interface, prints on plain paper, 700,000 characters per ink cartridge, weighs only 4lbs., and produces graphics at 360 dpi. Handles A4 paper & envelopes. This printer is the latest technology.

£199.95 Plus VAT & Carr. £240.00

LAPLINK SOFTWARE

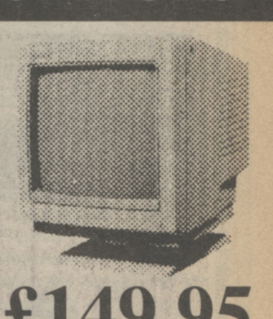
Release 2

£25.50

Plus VAT & Carr £35.00

The complete package that normally sells for about £89.00 is now being offered at only £25.50 plus VAT. The package contains all software & hardware to enable you to transfer files from computer to computer at very fast speeds via the serial ports (115,000 baud). More reliable and cheaper than using the DISKCOPY command or buying a second disk drive. Particularly suitable for Desktop to Laptop operation.

VGA COLOUR MONITORS



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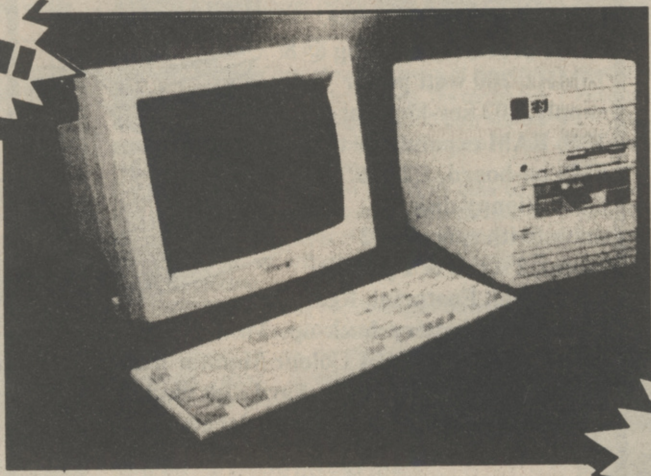

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EXPRESS MAIL

This week it's porn, porn and more porn – along with a little swearing, piracy, memory lapses, indexes, Terminator T-1000s and Faster Than Light processing. HFW gets put on the spot...

Hard core

Will you please clarify your position on pornography in software? Do you frown on Page three style exposure, soft (and legal) pornography, or just the hard-core material available from some unscrupulous sources.

The latter is, of course, illegal and the purveyors of such material should be reported to the police immediately.

Great mag, by the way, the only one with *attitude*!

Andrew Brown, Wetherby

THIS PORNO thing certainly runs and runs doesn't it? It's a dead tricky area because if I say Page three is OK then I'm asked where I draw the line. If I say Page three is not OK then I'm accused of prudishness.

What I'll say is this: I don't see why soft porn should be used to sell software any more than it should be used to sell newspapers, cars, booze and cigarettes. So, yes, I guess I frown on it.

As for hard-core, well, I'm glad it is illegal. I lived in Amsterdam for a year and you can't avoid it there. You become anaesthetised. Problem is that it feeds off addictive personalities; the harder stuff becomes ever more mundane to the point where to achieve the same kicks you need ever more extreme material. Snuff and stuff.

I'd say the British have drawn the line at the right point. Purveyors of hard core are the purveyors of misery – simply because the more you get, the less satisfaction you derive.

Hogwash

This letter is regarding the reply to Mr R Burman's comments on Computer Pornography. In it you say (and I quote) "Yours is the kind of liberalism that borders on the disturbing, it's precisely what people need protecting from." .... Rubbish, what a load of hogwash, which people? And by who?

I quite understand parents wanting to protect their children but honestly, one adult telling another what he/she can or cannot see is utter nonsense.

Do you think that there are millions of salivating computer owners just waiting to be corrupted by the Barons of HiTec Porn? Give us some modicum of intelligence.

Most people who see a sign saying 'XXX explicit material over 18's only', have a shrewd idea of what's contained in the package and if they don't they'll have no idea what's going on anyway.

So, to conclude, if ya don't want it, don't buy it.

John Cross, Felixstowe

WHICH PEOPLE? – the people who don't want to be bombarded by pornography. By who? – by the judiciary.

If you read Richard Burman's letter in *Express* 148, you'll find he was suggesting that unless pornography was allowed to flow freely, you'd have legions of Aids-infected sex-monsters roaming the streets molesting children. Now I find this argument a little difficult to take.

As far as I'm aware there's never been any connection made between levels of pornography and levels of sex crime. I'd argue that the former encourages the latter rather than alleviating it.

It's simply not enough to say that XXX-rated sections on bulletin boards and PD libraries are clearly marked and therefore people will not access them if they're going to be shocked.

Human curiousity being what it is, such areas are always going to attract the casual and unsuspecting browser. Others would argue by saying this I'm denying them their freedom of choice. I'd argue I'm defending their freedom from corruption.

Demo filth

I have been collecting PD for about eight months now and I have a decent sized collection.

A few days ago I decided to take a good look at some of the demos I had. Out of 20 demos I watched, six of them had obscene swear words.

Now I'm not a fuddy duddy, who moans at bad language, I don't deny I swear, on average every tenth word, but I do not write swear words in any of my work, or should I?

Does say, the F word, make a demo more presentable? Does the C word make the author someone to look up to? I don't think so!

Do these people realise that PD libraries, on finding such language, take their hard work out of distribution, so as not to offend young kids, etc. But then again it's not just their hard work, what about the poor sod (is that swearing?) who slugs his guts out creating fantastic music, amazing pictures, stunning bobs and sprites, just to be ruined by the wally who puts all the work together at the end.

What's the point Mr Wally?

Andrew Paul, Eastbourne

I'D BE THE first to agree that I, too, swear too much. But I can't ever remember putting that language into writing. It just devalues meaning. But then as far as demos are concerned we're talking 'the language of the street' ain't we maaaan? You have to be hard to be cool and all that. Pity really.

Pirate BBs

After reading quite a lot of *NCE*'s, and now finding that you are going into the BBS world (about time too!), I noticed that you had started an Anti-porn campaign.

OK, I thought, porn is bad, it's down grading to some and perverse to others.

But *NCE* has never bitten on to the pirate BBs thing, there's loads of pirate BBS's and BBs's that have pirate areas in the UK.

Other systems run with software that has been pirated, or just the Sysops have not registered the software!

When is *NCE* going to do articles on this, bringing into light the fact that the user is always paying for his calls, while he is using a BBS run by someone that can't be bothered to pay for the software it's run on.!

What would *NCE* do if someone was to tell them that 50 per cent of the BBS's that they promote were running pirate

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ON THE COUCH

This week's willing participant in the extra-psychiatrical stakes is none other than ABDUL MUTHANA. Abdul readily admits he is 'bonkers' and couldn't wait to get into action with our resident shrink, Dr Clare Anthony. All the plucky chappie had to do was send in the name of the machine he owned, declare his love for a certain piece of software and name the machine he most desired. He then put them all in an envelope and sent them to Leather Couch Clare, *NCE*, 30 Monmouth Street, Bath BA1 2BW. So why not join in the psycho-terror too – it can be real good fun!

OK Abdul...whoa!!! – boy have I got a live one here...

- **MACHINE OWNED: Acorn Electron**
- **FAVE SOFTWARE: *Xenon II***
- **DESIRED MACHINE: Terminator T1000**

I considered for some time how on earth you could possibly play *Xenon II* on an Acorn Electron, but then I realised – you're really an Amiga owner in disguise aren't you? Your subconscious is attempting to lie through your teeth by pretending it's severely handicapped. And it's true. You are. You have one of the most well-developed fixations with violence I've ever encountered.

It's Terminator T-1000 isn't it Abdul? As you state in your letter 'I need a new sparring partner'. Well there's some fundamental problems here Abdul.

As we Freudians know only too well, cyborgs of the advanced Terminator T-1000 class are really mere cyphers for entrenched masochism. In your desire to fight this ambi-morphous entity you are really expressing your wish to be overcome by it. Yes, Abdul, I'm afraid we're talking deep-seated sexual ambiguities here, created by a need to give form to something which has denied substance to everything other than what it comes into contact with.

Yes, Terminator T1000 fully embraces a neo-Platonic notion of Absolute Reality and as such should be revered as a true post-modernist philosopher, ie, ignored completely.

PROGNOSIS: Sell your Acorn Electron immediately. Then catch a bus to your local Toys R Us. Quickly buy 10 Action Men, go home and climb into bed with them. You will shortly realise their biceps are bigger than Terminator T1000's and you'll all live happily ever after.

systems, and thus *NCE* is promoting piracy by not going far enough into finding out what the system has on-line before taking the advert.!

I have seen adverts in *NCE* and other Future mags that I know for a fact that the Sysop hasn't paid a single penny for his/her stuff. Piracy needs stamping out, I know – I'm a programmer running a Support BBS for one of the Amiga's best BBS packages, so what is *NCE* going to do?

Comments please.!

Andy Smith via Aspects

WE'RE WELL aware that there are BBSs out there that carry pirated software. And we're on the case. Expect an exposé in the near future.

Amiga megs

I have bought every issue of your magazine and your sister mag from when it was *ST Amiga Format* and every *Amiga Format*, and I find them the best mags on the market.

I have never written to you or any other mags before, although I have been very tempted, but one thing has made me do so. This is not for the pirate debate, but could fit in there.

My brother bought *F15 Strike Eagle II* for £30, he then bought 1 meg to take his Amiga up to 2 meg, but when he tried playing *F15 2*, it would not work on his 2 meg. He then took it back to the shop who phoned Microprose and they said there was nothing they could do.

So we phoned them up ourselves and were told that the shop sold us the wrong chips. If this is so, why does all other software work? And if Micropose is wrong then please warn other people of this – if they are wrong then it does not surprise me that people pirate, if that is how the software companies treat people. Not that I would do it myself, between the two of us we must have 400 disks and to my knowledge none are pirated.

Mr Green, Chesterfield

I RANG MICROPROSE on your behalf and they say there's little they can do since they can't check all their software on every RAM upgrade kit available, even though they have 20 different Amiga configurations to test titles on. It seems likely that other software won't run either – not just Microprose's – so all I can suggest is that if you want to play the game then you'll just have to disable the extra memory. In future, it might be a good idea to check with software houses beforehand or connect some switch that allows you to turn that additional RAM off. Maybe our Tech Tips section could sort this out for you.

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Pedant's Point

(strictly not a point but a subset of two-dimensional space)

I write with reference to the letter in *NCE* 147, from H. Warren.

Faster Than Light processing is in fact 'possible'. Imagine two 100MHz processors linked together, giving a 'speed' of nearly 200MHz. Add another and you get nearly 300MHz. Carry on in this fashion ad-infinitum and you end up with an effective speed in excess of that possible with a single light speed processor.

What you then do, of course, is bolt several light speed processors together, and where does it all stop?

Andrew Brown Wetherby

NOT SURE about your computer science here Andrew – if you link two 100MHz processors together you get two processors both running at 100 MHz – not a 200MHz system! Anyone else got any theories about FSL?

Pirate ads

What on earth is *NCE* doing in accepting and printing an advert from an Amiga user wanting documents for 'all serious software'?

Why do you think this person wants the docs? If he had legitimate copies of the software, he wouldn't need copies, except in an unusual case where a manual could have been destroyed and proved irreplaceable by the supplier.

Had that been the case, he would have asked for a specific document, so it seems rather more likely that he has pirated copies of many serious programs. Most of these programs are not copy protected and software houses rely on the fact that heavyweight programs are almost useless without the manual, together with their technical help, to ensure a decent return on their investment of time and money.

The benefit to consumers is that software is easy to back-up and install on hard disk.

These may seem petty points, but there is a real danger that firms producing serious software for machines such as the ST and Amiga will abandon their efforts in favour of the PC market, if they do not get a reasonable return due to adverts such as these.

Paul Bates, Derby

POINT TAKEN Paul, we'll just have to be more vigilant in future.

Index index

I am sure that I am not alone in that, as well as finding your magazine great entertainment, I use my collection extensively at work as a reference aid. Many a task that seemed impossible was finally completed with the aid of the *NCE*.

The problem, as with so many magazines, is that it is becoming impossible to find anything (The current method of searching is of the "I'm sure there was a computer on the cover" variety).

I would find it of great help, and I'm sure so would many others, if you published an index periodically (the much lesser magazine, *Crash*, did it).

This would raise the publication from a weekly rag to the realms of an indispensible reference material, way up there with the *Encyclopedia Britannica*, the *Phone Book* and the *Good Chip Shop Guide* (well, almost).

Gerald Byrne, Birmingham

I CAN WELL see a need for this Gerald, but what you're asking for is an enormous task. It should have been built-in from the beginning.

Indeed, an index is something even we don't have to hand! I'm afraid we just have to search the back issues manually and pull our hair out too!

We do have access to optical disks that have every *Express* since issue 82 stored on-line, but by the time we've done a keyword search through the millions of megabytes it would have been simpler just to search the shelves. ■

Write Now

Write and tell Haydn Fitz-Williams what you think! Reach him at: Express Mail, 30 Monmouth Street, Bath BA1 2BW. Sorry, no personal replies, even with an SAE and remember, only SOME letters win a fiver

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Microsoft has announced a reduction in the price of its Microsoft *Office* bundle. The new price is £675, down from £758. *Office* comprises *Word 4.0*, *Excel 3.0*, *PowerPoint 2.01* and *Microsoft Mail 3.0.*

If you were to buy the four packages separately, they would cost you £950 (at recommended retail price). Even if you only want *Word* and *Excel* (the spreadsheet), the package is good value for money – although you could buy the applications more cheaply if you were prepared to buy grey imported versions.

Microsoft is hoping that this new incentive, together with a similar bundle for Windows which also costs £675, will persuade more businesses to standardise on Microsoft's products rather than its competitors'.

STAR WARS

According to on-line news service NewsBytes, Apple's claims about the transmission of e-mail from the Space Shuttle using a Macintosh Portable and AppleLink are being questioned by NASA. Apple says, among other things, that its kit was used to transmit, "the first true electronic mail message from space," but NASA claims that much of this is hype – and some of it just plain incorrect.

Apple said that the system used a special, high-security messaging system for the astronauts to send greetings to their families from the shuttle orbiting the Earth, but NASA says that the standard e-mail system was used – certainly not some high-security version.

FASTEST CD-ROM?

Hitachi has launched what is claimed to be the fastest Macintosh CD-ROM drive. The 'CD-MAC' system costs £758, and comes with the SCSI drive, all cables and software, together with a desk accessory which allows the drive to play standard audio CDs through an audio output socket.

The drive has a 'look-ahead buffer' to increase its speed, and a patented automatic lens cleaning system. Access time is claimed to be 320 milliseconds.

Now that Apple is pushing CD-ROM as its preferred way to distribute programs – the network System 7 updater comes on CD-ROM, as do almost all developer applications – it is becoming more and more useful to have a CD-ROM drive. And this one certainly looks reasonable.

☎ Contact Hitachi on 081-849 2092.

IT'S JUST NOT FAIR

How come Apple promotes the Macs so well in the States, but we don't get any similar benefits over here?

Two schemes are currently running in the US; a temporary reduction in the

POSTCARD FROM AMERICA

It's no shock to hear that there was more coding than hard drinking at the fraternity party to accompany MacHack programmers contest, even though the hotel nightclub, City Limits, featured special drinks for the conference. Pink was a combination of pink lemonade and gin, with a lemon slice; the combination of sweet and sour with a bitter aftertaste may have been a bit too close to the mark for some.

First prize went to *VideoBeep*: "Guaranteed to annoy your co-workers." It replaces the system beep with a *QuickTime* movie. Start saving pennies for the jumbo hard drive to store all the video clips you'll want to play when *QT* is finally released.

There were some worthy runners-up. *Bully* is helpful for people feeling the pinch of memory hungry applications. It's difficult to operate many applications under System 7 on a machine with only 2Mb. *Bully* frees up needed memory by killing the Finder (formerly known as MultiFinder), and using the freed-up RAM – sometimes an additional 500Kb. In the Application menu, the Finder is replaced by a pantomime *Bully's Buddy* application. You have to quit from all open applications before *Bully* will take you back to the Finder.

***Scribble 1.0d1* is the enhanced version of last year's *FinderPict*, which allowed users to paste pictures into Finder windows. This extension lets you paint in the windows with a pencil, eraser, paintbrush! Anything you draw stays, and if you close the window or restart, it will be there when you open it again. At the moment *Scribble* is only in black and white, but soon it will support colour, copy and paste. The authors, System 7 programmers Chris Derossi and Darin Adler, claim not to have found any crashing bugs – in ten minutes of testing.**

David Morgenstern

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prices of certain Macs, and a 'Driving for Education' promotion, which is being run in conjunction with Chevrolet.

The price cuts will continue until 5 January, and include $125 off a Classic with a StyleWriter and $800 off a IIsi with a Personal LaserWriter LS. How come Apple UK doesn't do something similar? Bundling the Classic, a StyleWriter and a word processor, for example, would be a great marketing move. But noooo…

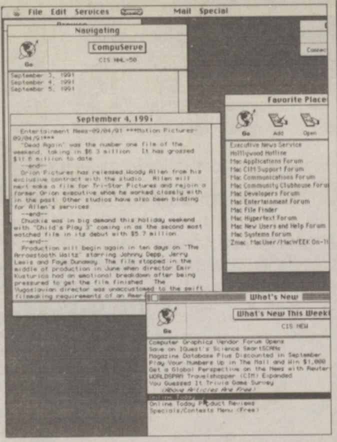
The 'Driving for Education" thing is an educational deal whereby schoolkids get their parents, friends and so on to test drive a Chevy at their local dealer. Each test drive is recorded, and once a school has 50 of them it starts earning rewards in the form of Macintosh hardware and other goodies, including camcorders and televisions.

A Chevrolet spokesman said that in a pilot program in Atlanta recently, 90 per cent of schools participated. But then, who wouldn't spend half an hour in a Chevy if it meant getting a Mac?

COMPUSERVE GUI

If you use the Mac to access CompuServe, a huge bulletin board/e-mail system based in the States with UK access points, you could do worse than get hold of a copy of the *CompuServe Information Manager* program.

CIM (as it's known) is a graphical front-end for CompuServe which provides windows and mouse support, rather than the standard scrolling terminal display. Although not every section of the bulletin board takes full advantage of it, those which do are far easier to navigate through.



September 3, 1991
September 4, 1991
September 5, 1991

September 4, 1991

Entertainment News-09/04/91 ***Motion Pictures-09/04/91***
"Dead Again" was the number one film of the weekend, taking in $6.3 million. It has grossed $11.6 million to date.
--end--
Orion Pictures has released Woody Allen from his exclusive contract with the studio. Allen will next make a film for Tri-Star Pictures and rejoin a former Orion executive whom he worked closely with in the past. Other studios have also been bidding for Allen's services.
--end--
Chuckie was in big demand this holiday weekend with "Child's Play 3" coming in as the second most watched film in its debut with $5.7 million.
--end--
Production will begin again in ten days on "The Arrowstooth Waltz" starring Johnny Depp, Jerry Lewis and Faye Dunaway. The film stopped in the middle of production in June when director Emir Kusturica had an emotional breakdown after being pressured to get the film finished. The Yugoslavian director was unaccustomed to the swift filmmaking requirements of an Amer

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• ***CompuServe Information Manager*** **enables far easier navigation of the large and complex CompuServe on-line system**

The only problem – which is the same with all graphics-based bulletin boards – is that having an easier way of negotiating the system means that you tend to spend longer on-line, and hence spend rather more money than you intended. But at least *CIM* has a constant on-screen indicator of the amount of time you've spent connected to the system.

☎ CompuServe free on 0800 289458.

Ian Wrigley

CPC

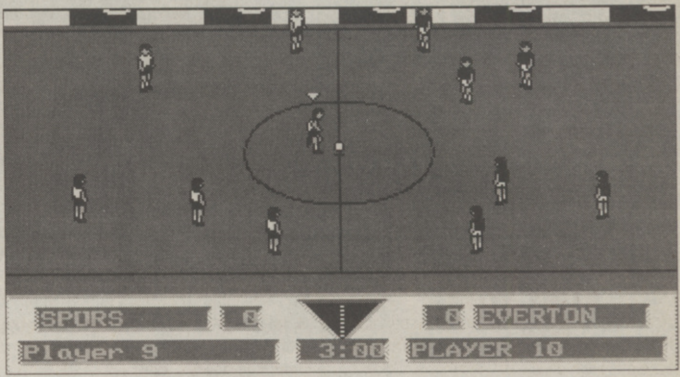
- **Sport for all! Domark's *Grandstand***
- **Desktop publishing for under a fiver?**
- **Tips to keep your tape software loading**

GRANDSTAND VIEW

Those compilations really are coming out thick and fast. The latest is from Domark and it's called *Grandstand*. (that kind of gives the game away already, doesn't it? It's a set of four games linked by a sporting theme, but covering a very wide spectrum of styles:

Gazza's Super Soccer has been around for a while, but since the bloke's popularity shows no signs of waning (more's the pity) it's still a pretty up-to-date-sounding release. The trouble is, it all falls down when you play it. For a start, the view of the

Continued on next page ➤



Gazza's Super Soccer **– OK till you play it. Dodgy animation and difficult control don't help a game that's struggling anyway**

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8833 MKII

Colour Monitor

The Philips 8833 MkII is the perfect colour monitor for ST and Amiga owners. With its stereo sound and super quality picture it really shows off the full capabilities of the STE and the Amiga. The Philips 8833 MkII also comes with 12 months on site warranty FREE!

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Or even better ....

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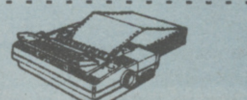

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MACHINE SPECIFICS

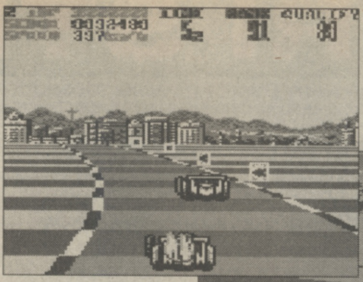
pitch changes according to where you are. Sounds good in principle, but what it means is that midfield play is viewed side-on whereas goal mouth action is seen head-on. Confusing or what? Apart from that, the animation is awful and the game itself is almost impossible to play.

Pro Tennis Tour is another story. It's not a really accurate tennis sim, like Palace's *International 3-D Tennis*, but then it doesn't have emaciated little stick-men with triangles for torsos running around the court. In fact, the graphics are really rather nice, and quite well animated. On the other hand, control is tricky, and you're going to have to be pretty keen to stick with it.

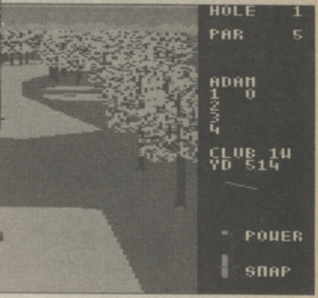
Continental Circus is a whole new kettle of fish. It's a Grand Prix racing game (not really a simulator) which concentrates more on simple arcade appeal than complex tactics. It's really fast, really playable and one of the best car racing games you can get on the Amstrad.

World Class Leaderboard is one of the better golfing games around. It's not new, having been out on budget for quite a while, but it's still very good.

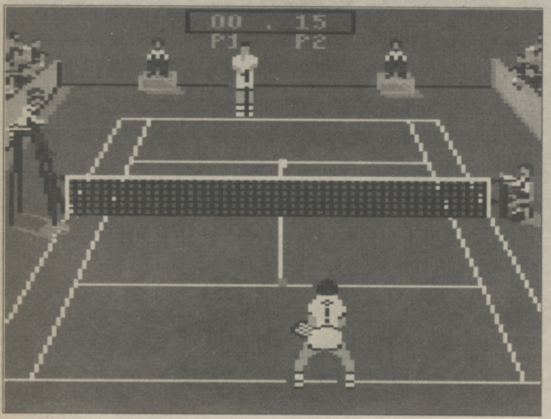
Grandstand has got two really good games on it (*Continental Circus* and *World Class Leaderboard*), one fair one (*Pro Tennis Tour*) and a really naff one (*Gazza's Super Soccer*). At £14.99 on cassette and £19.99 on disk, it's no bargain. In fact, you're paying almost standard budget price for each game, and considering the two best games are out on budget, you might be better off buying them separately.



• *Continental Circus* is one of the best racing games ever – but you can buy it on its own as a budget game too



• Fore! *World Class Leaderboard* is a great golf sim and the second best game on the compilation



• *Pro Tennis Tour* isn't the best tennis sim ever, but it looks good and plays pretty reasonably too

PAGEMAKER DELUXE

Alan Scully, of Scull PD fame, is a busy lad. Apart from running his public domain library, and apart from studying for a degree, and apart from putting together his own fanzine, he still finds time to dabble about with programming – hence his new Desktop Publishing program *Pagemaker Deluxe*.

Although Alan runs a PD library, *Pagemaker* isn't PD. Instead, it's on offer for £3.50 plus disk or £5 without a disk. Or, if you subscribe to Alan's fanzine, *CPC Domain*, you get the program free.

But can a program this cheap actually be any good? Well, *Pagemaker* isn't going to have *Stop Press* quaking in its boots, but for the money it's an excellent piece of software.

Text is loaded from ASCII files (the program comes with a text editor too) while graphics can be either simple art drawn within the program or clip-art imported in.

Drawbacks? There are a few. For example, you can't cut and paste or otherwise edit the text once you've imported it. Neither can you erase anything or undo your last action. And when you import text it stops at the bottom of the page (it doesn't flow on into the next column), meaning you'll have to spend some time preparing your copy in a word processor text editor

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before importing it.

Disadvantages aside, *Pagemaker Deluxe* remains an excellent program for the money. All the more so because version 4.0 has just been announced! This latest version will now import all clip-art from both the CPC and PCW versions of *Stop Press*. It can also import text in 16 different ways instead of the previous one – the right margin can be unjustified, text will flow round graphics in both margins, text running over graphics will be automatically inverted where necessary, proportional text can be switched on and off... and there's more new stuff besides.

If you want a copy of *Pagemaker Deluxe*, you're interested in *CPC Domain* or you want to find out what Scull PD has in its library, write to: Scull PD, 119 Laurel Drive, East Kilbride, Glasgow G75 9JG. Don't forget to say who sent you.

TAPE TIPS

I get quite a few letters from readers having trouble getting tape software to load properly. So here's a couple of tips from the archives that might help you out:

The tape deck in the 464 isn't as reliable as it should be. The playback head can move so that it doesn't line up with the recorded track on the tape. This may result in 'Read Errors'. If this happens there are two things you can do.

- You can clean the tape-head and the pinch rollers. Use a clean cloth with a dab of methylated spirits.
- You can adjust the position of the tape-head using a Philips screwdriver. In front of the Rewind button is a small hole. When Play is pressed an adjustable screw moves into line with the hole. By turning this up to a half turn in either direction you may well succeed in bringing the tape-head into line.

Try a series of small adjustments in one direction, and if that doesn't work try the other direction. If you do this while a program is loading and have the volume turned up to full you can also judge when the sound is loudest and crispest.

If you do adjust the tape head alignment ('azimuth') make sure you can return the head to its original position if the worst comes to the worst. And don't press 'Stop' with the screwdriver still poked into the works!

Rod Lawton

Rod Lawton is editor of Amstrad Action, *essential reading for Amstrad CPC and Plus owners.*

THE NEVER ENDING CIRCUS

Since *Continental Circus* is getting a review this week as part of Domark's *Grandstand* compilation, how about a keypress cheat for infinite credits? The cheat's from Stephen Matthews of Kings Lynn –thanks, Stephen.

Press CLR then redefine the keys as C, H, E, A, T, Space. Once you start the game, keep pressing 'C' for more credits.

C64

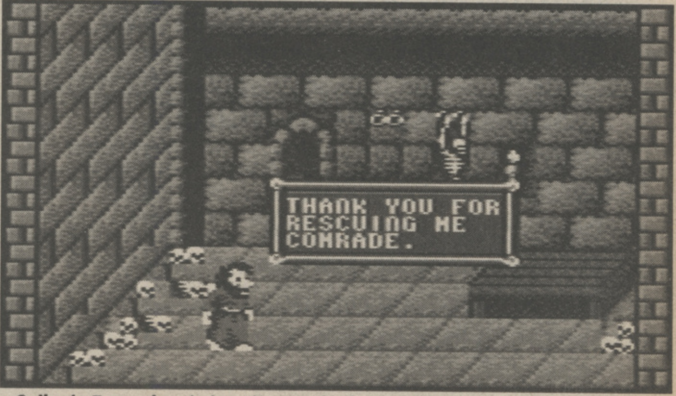
- **What makes *Spike in Transylvania* so good?**
- **Outrageous fanzine for PD fanatics**
- **Greatest games music collected on CD**

HAGAR HEROICS

Being a Viking is great fun – all that pillaging and grog-swilling,there's hardly a dull moment. Except for Spike, the recent winner of the Hagar the Horrible lookalike competition. His eight shipmates have been imprisoned in the dungeons of a menacing castle, and it's your job to get them out. And thus begins a wonderful arcade adventure.

The look of *Spike in Transiylvania* is

Continued on next page ➤


THANK YOU FOR
RESCUING ME
COMRADE.

• ***Spike in Transylvania* is quite simply the most fun to be had on the C64 for quite some time, and the music is splendid too**

The Midnight Oil

Whew! What a summer. No, obviously not the weather, but for British football. On June 9th, I cheered myself hoarse at Wembley as the Monarchs took the first World Bowl. A few weeks earlier, Man. Utd. proved the "experts" all wrong about the quality of British soccer, when they easily beat Barcelona in the European Cup Winners Cup Final. United played 9 European matches without a single defeat. And now, a new NFL season, and Arsenal, Spurs, Liverpool and United back in Europe. Football's back!!!!

It's been a busy summer for game design too. In 1983 I wrote my first game "League Division One" for the BBC Micro. Subsequently "Mexico '86", "Soccer Supremo" and "Rome '90" appeared. But it was "Division One '85" that really hit the button for most fans. It was the game, unlike any other computer soccer game I know, which took soccer seriously. So, this summer, it had to be "Div One '92" for the Amiga and ST computers. It's six times the size of "85" and I believe it will have the same impact. Call me if you want to chat about it.

Malcolm Howard

DIVISION ONE '92

"HUGELY ENJOYABLE, BUT DANGEROUSLY ADDICTIVE."

Dr. Trevor Harley, psychologist

Soccer management is about judgement. Judgement of a player's skills and the combination of skills that make up an effective team. Judgement of an opposition's skills and the tactics that will ensure that your team's skills overcome those of the opposition. This season's league champions will be managed by the guy whose judgement proves correct more often than that of his fellow managers.

"Division One '92" will give you the opportunity to pit your judgement against the computer simulated managers and teams of the English first division. As new manager you must, initially, make the best of the squad of players that your predecessor has left. But, through the youth squad, the reserve squad, and the transfer market, you have the opportunity to assemble a squad that plays your type of football. Success through the seasons will be your responsibility. The first division, the FA Cup, the League Cup and the three European titles are there for the taking.....for the right manager.

HEADCOACH v3

"IT'S A PITY TO CALL THIS JUST A GAME"

A & B Computing

The new NFL season is looking fascinating. The Bills, the Bears, the Raiders and the Chiefs all looked good last season, and with the 49'ers returning to earth, and the Giants likely to be affected by Bill Parcells joining Bill Walsh in the commentary box, the SuperBowl could go to one of many teams. And who will be the top coach this season?

"HeadCoach V3" has been designed for lesser mortals, like you and me, to pit their wits and knowledge of American Football against the giants (sorry about that) of the game. Through the seasons you will need to build a 45 man squad to allow a gameplan design that will overcome any team in the NFL. SuperBowl glory can be yours, then you can join the Bills (sorry again) or go on to build yet another squad, and take yet another SuperBowl. The team and coach of the nineties haven't yet been decided. Time to stake your claim?

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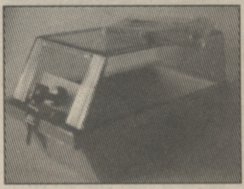

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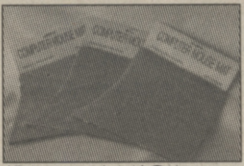

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MUSIC FOR THE MASSES

If you're an uncontrollable fan of 'computer music', then two brand new CDs from Digital Dreams might be your very cup of tea. Each compact disk contains approximately 50 minutes of astounding 16-bit tunes from Gremlin and Psygnosis, including *Shadow of the Beast*, *Awesome*, *Stryx*, *Supercars*, plus countless others.

Priced at £7.99 each or £14.99 for the pair, they are a must for anyone with an interest in computers and music. If all goes well, Digital Dreams plans to release a CD containing over *two hours* of the best C64 tunes (something which has never been done before).

☎ Contact Simon Palmer on 0602 754991 for further information.

Oh, and Digital Dreams has recently re-mastered the CDs for enhanced sound quality, so if you've ordered a CD and are still waiting for it please be patient.

◀ reminiscent of the classic Ultimate products, *Staff of Karnath* in particular. The game is intricately laced with all manner of puzzles, most of which are reasonably straightforward – most entail giving certain objects to certain characters to gain certain other objects… I'm sure you know the routine well enough by now.

There is plenty of interaction, and the dialogue often gives vital clues for the quest. There are also numerous switches dotted around the landscape, so making a map and taking notes is often a necessity. Add to this a sprinkling of energy-sapping rats, bats, and ghosts, and the result is a quite challenging task to endure.

Spike is a wonderful arcade adventure, making a very refreshing change from the recent deluge of mediocre clones. The graphics, if a little blocky, are colourful and detailed. The sound effects are wonderfully done, and the lengthy music is superb.

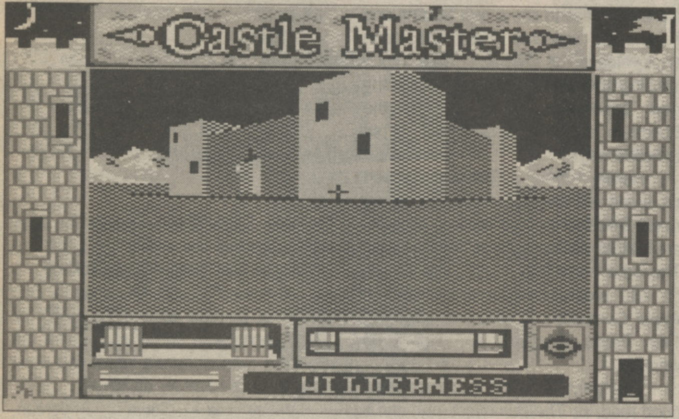
Spike in Transilvania is one of the most enjoyable games I have played in a long while, and is available on the Codemasters label for £3.99. Miss this, and you're a very sad individual indeed.

JAZZ PLANET PD

Keen followers of the ever-increasing C64 demo scene may well be interested in a new bi-monthly fanzine solely dedicated to public domain software. Under the strangely inept title of *Frombasmic Jazz Planet*, the fanzine aims to cover anything PD related, including such diverse things as demos, utilities and editors. *FJP* also offers free trade or private adverts, fanzine reviews, and a handy contacts page.

The first issue is currently being put together by Andy Rodger, and any contributions are welcome.

For further details, write to Andy Rodger, FJP,69 Johnstone Dr., Rutherglen, Glasgow, G73 2QA. And don't forget, if you run a fanzine or user group and are seeking coverage, drop me a line at C64 Column, *New Computer Express*, 30 Monmouth Street, Bath, Avon, BA1 2BW.



• This handy infinite strength poke makes *Castle Master*, the best of the Freescape games, considerably easier to complete

MASTERING CASTLES

Castle Master is perhaps the most playable of the Freescape games, but the quest is by no means an easy one. Enter the following listing, SAVE for future use, then RUN it (ensuring your rewound *Castle Master* cassette is in the C2N) for infinite strength, courtesy of Martin Pugh.

```
0 REM *CASTLE MASTER TAPE
    CHEAT*
1 FOR X=533 TO 565:READ
    Y:C=C+Y:POKE X,Y:NEXT
2 IF C=3338 THEN POKE
    157,128:SYS 533
3 PRINT"DATA ERROR"
4 DATA 169,34,141,40,3,169,
    2,141,41,3,32,86
5 DATA 245,169,11,141,206,
    1,96,72,77,80,169,173
6 DATA 141,109,120,141,81,
    132,76,235,2
```

Andrew Roberts

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SPECTRUM

- Spectrum is a video star with new titling
- Fanzine scene update – *The Mix* and *Outlet*
- Postman Pat achieves immortality

VIDEO TITLING

The Spectrum is one of the most versatile computers around and don't let anyone tell you different. Speccy software covers every conceivable area from desktop publishing to pools prediction, from molecule simulation to subliminal suggestion. You name it and there's a good chance that in some small ad somewhere you can buy it.

The latest supposedly 16-bit pursuit the Speccy has turned its dextrous digits to is video production. Chris Brown has just sent me some info on *Videomaster*, a comprehensive sounding package, comprising three programs that enable you to add Speccy-created text to your home video masterworks.

The main program allows 40 lines of text to be overlaid on a video image. Each line can be up to 30 letters. You can also stretch the text to any size and display it in any one of ten different fonts and 32 patterns. That's as well as the 80 special effects at your disposal, including wipes, scrolls, borders, backgrounds, underlines and curtains, and the ability to load in the picture background of your choice.

Videomaster is menu-driven throughout and is apparently very easy to use. Two other programs make up the overall package. *Borders and Backgrounds* offers 54 different patterns from clapperboard-style to the stars and stripes, so you don't have to print titles on boring one-colour backgrounds. You can superimpose borders on backgrounds, use lots of different colours and flashing effects to help make that day out to Dudley industrial estate a vivid psychedelic experience for all who care to watch.

Finally, there's *Disc Display* which seems to offer a kind of shop window display-style rolling demonstration. With this program you can store a maximum of 80 screens on disk and recall them to the TV screen with a short pause between each. This process is made all the more interesting with the inclusion of twenty special effects that let you fade in the new screen or make it appear through a venetian blind effect.

Videomaster, *Borders and Backgrounds* and *Disc Display* all come with demo routines and are compatible with tape, Plus D and microdrive. The price is £25 from Chris Brown, 4 Lavender Close, Witham, Essex, CM8 2YG. No doubt an SAE to the same place will get you further details.

SPEC TIP

Here very quickly, is another useful secret keypad feature: Pressing Extended Mode, Symbol Shift and 8 toggles the Screen Editor Size.

MIXED UP KIDS

It's always nice to see a new fanzine and I generally welcome them with open arms, loads of hurrahs and much jumping up and down. *The Mix* is a shiny new paper-based mag serving the Spectrum, Amiga and Sord M-5, or so the cover says.

Hailing from Gloucester and produced at irregular intervals by an Anglo-Swedish team of loonies, contents are a bit, er idiosyncratic to say the least. The issue I saw had a four page feature on Z80 programming and a piece on Apple Computers in amongst cartoons, *Twin Peaks* appraisals and 808 State worship.

Strangely, it makes for a rollicking good read, as *The Sun* might say, and a welcome change from the often stuffy, occasionally boring tone of some fanzines. Extra brownie points for desk top publishing the whole thing on the Speccy as well using PCG's package.

At around 30 odd A4 pages for 50p plus SAE (or 80p without the SAE) it's pretty good value and if you admire the *Viz/Your Sinclair* school of writing don't hesitate to send off for an issue.

Write to Steve Anderson, Beechwood Terrace, 108 Stanley Road, Gloucester GL1 5DH. Any mag that cites

POSTMAN PAT: INDESTRUCTIBLE

I don't suppose you'd be that surprised if I told you that this week's poke was sent in by a Spec chum with the name of Alan Johns. To get infinite Pats (and requisite black and white cats into the bargain) in *Postman Pat* just type out the following listing, save it, 'Run' it and start your original game tape from the beginning. And then give praise to Alan Johns for his help.

```
10 REM POSTMAN PAT 2
20 WRITTEN BY ALAN JOHNS (FOZ)
30 FOR F=23440 TO 23470: READ
   A: POKE F,A: NEXT F
40 PRINT "START THE TAPE";USR
   23440
50 DATA 221,33,203,92,17,157,0,
   62,255,55,205,86
60 DATA 5,48,241,33,168,91,34,
   32,93,195,208,92
70 DATA 175,50,97,193,195,3,128
```

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Sherilyn Fenn as inspiration has to be worth buying.

OUTLET FOR TALENT

From the still gleaming first issue of *the Mix* to an old favourite of the Sinclair scene, the monthly on-screen magazine *Outlet*. No excuses for mentioning the latest issue (August) because as usual it's an absolute corker and a worthy addition to anyone's disk or tape box.

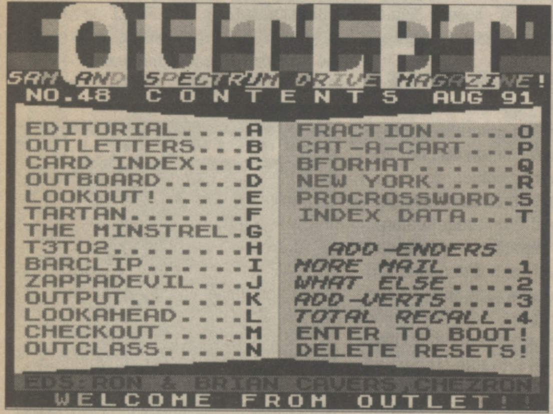
Highlights for me included a tartan pattern generator, 128K music, a tutorial on transferring cassette games onto disk, a routine that formats a 3.5/5.25 disk drive for use as a Plus 3 B drive and a *Total Recall* digitised demo.

You'd have to be a demanding sort to ask for more in one month. Introductory copies of *Outlet* are available on every format known to man – save punched card – for £2.50 from Chezron Software, 605 Loughborough Road, Birstall, Leicester LE4 4NJ. Naturally more details are available from the same address.

Robin Alway

DO THEY GET SO MUCH ON SUCH A TINY DISK?
PRESS A KEY
OUTLET

• The diskzine *Outlet* is packed with goodies such as a tartan pattern generator



```
OUTLET
SAM AND SPECTRUM DRIVE MAGAZINE!
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EDITORIAL....A   FRACTION.....O
OUTLETTERS...B   CAT-A-CART...P
CARD INDEX...C   BFORMAT......Q
OUTBOARD.....D   NEW YORK.....R
LOOKOUT!.....E   PROCROSSWORD.S
TARTAN.......F   INDEX DATA...T
THE MINSTREL.G
T3T02........H     ADD-ENDERS
BARCLIP......I   MORE MAIL....1
ZAPPADEVIL...J   WHAT ELSE....2
OUTPUT.......K   ADD-VERTS....3
LOOKAHEAD....L   TOTAL RECALL.4
CHECKOUT.....M   ENTER TO BOOT!
OUTCLASS.....N   DELETE RESETS!
EDS:RON & BRIAN CAVERS,CHEZRON
  WELCOME FROM OUTLET!!
```

• The 'zine has been going for some considerable time now and is available for all Spectrum formats

CONSOLES

• More games announced for the CD PC Engine
• Turn your Game Gear into a Master System
• *Battletoads* challenge to the *Turtle* market

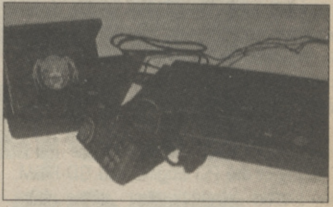
ROLL ON NEC

NEC's new console, the PC Engine Duo – basically a standard PC Engine with Super CD-ROM and 2Mb RAM – will be released in Japan on 21 September for 59,800¥ (£260). This is a lot cheaper than buying the whole lot separately, and the Duo has an optional battery pack, so can be used on the move.

To compliment the unit, NEC is also releasing the PC Engine monitor at the same time. This is a mini-television, with a 4.3-inch colour screen that gives a fantastic display. Unfortunately, you have to pay for quality – it'll set you back 79,800¥ (£347)!!

As for the new system card, which I mentioned a couple of weeks ago, it'll be available late October, for about £43.

Games to be released for the 2Mb CD-ROM include *Double Dragon II*, *Forgotten Worlds*, and *Shadow of the Beast*. Also planned is an advanced version of *R-Type* from Irem, and a CD version of *F1 Circus*. It's also possible, that *Dungeon Master*, and *Street Fighter II* may make their way to this format too.



• The PC Engine Duo from NEC will comprise a standard PC Engine and a CD-ROM drive

A couple of weeks ago, I also mentioned that *Raiden* will be converted to the Engine on CD format – if you don't own a CD-Rom, then don't worry, as Hudson is to convert the game on to 6Mb card too, and it should be available at the end of November.

MASTERLY GAME GEAR

The latest converter to come from the Far East is a gadget that will let you plug Master System cartridges into your Game

Continued on next page ➤

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MACHINE SPECIFICS

Gear. This is not too surprising, as the two machines are quite similar, if not identical in specifications.

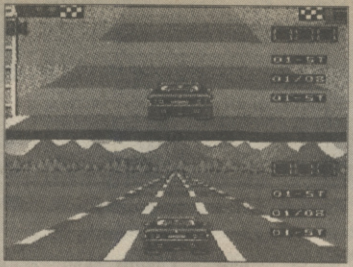
The gadget is similar to the one for the Megadrive and will possibly sell for around £35. This should increase sales of the Game Gear ten-fold, especially if you have a lot of Master System cartridges. I wonder if we'll see the Megadrive Game Gear converter?!

Incidentally, the Super Famicom has all the necessary hardware to run 8-bit NES cartridges. All it needs is an adaptor to convert the different pin configurations. Nintendo doesn't plan to produce such a device as they say it wouldn't be worth it.

LOTUS CHALLENGE

The best driving game on the Amiga has got to be Gremlin's *Lotus Turbo Challenge*, and Kemco must agree, because it is to release a similar game for the Super Famicom in December.

Like *Lotus*, the game is split screen, and features hills and slopes, and two players can race each other. The game hasn't a definite title yet but will be on an 8Mbit cartridge.



• Kemco's new racing game for the Super Famicom is very much influenced by *Lotus Turbo*

WAR GAMES

Talking of the PC Engine and CD-ROM, the latest strategy war game from Kogado Software Products, is aptly called *Super Schwarzechild*! I wonder if they thought of this name before the Gulf crisis?

However, the game is not set in the desert heat, but outer space, with some terrific graphics, very much like *Star Wars*. War gamers should check this out when it's released... but be warned, there's some awful Japanese text to contend with.

• Has Stormin'Norman gone into orbit, or was *Super Schwarzechild* named before the gulf war?

HOT BLASTERS

Not a lot of new games this week, but two shoot-'em-ups worth checking out are Naxat's *Spriggan* and Hudson's *1941*, both of which are for the PC Engine. Unfortunately, *Spriggan* is on CD-ROM, and *1941* is for the more powerful Super GrafX machine, so if you don't own either, you're sure missing out one way or another.

Both are vertical scrolling shoot-'em-ups, and feature super coin-op quality graphics, sound, and playability.

TOAD IN THE HOLE

Forget the Turtles, the *Battletoads* are the hottest characters currently to grace the Nintendo Entertainment System and the Game Boy, in the USA.

The games are selling like hot cakes, only topped by *Tetris*, *Dr Mario* and *Super Mario Bros III*.

The battletoads are Zitz, Rash and Pimple – the coolest doods in town, and they are up against the evil Dark Queen and her minions, who are out to destroy the trio and rule the Universe. The game is very much like Capcom's Final Fight as you must travel through several stages and beat the hell out of the enemy with different combination of moves at your disposal.

More on the Toads when Ican get a copy!

As for the Turtles, they're not dead and buried yet, as the UK wait for the official launch of *Teenage Mutant Hero Turtles 2* for the NES, Konamiare is currently producing *Teenage Mutant Hero Turtles 3*, and a Super Famicom version of the coin-op game is in the works too.

GREMLIN IN THE WORKS

The first Gremlin Graphics game to be released for the Game Boy will be a conversion of its puzzle arcade game, *Deflektor*. The 2Mbit cart will feature 120 levels, and if it's as good as the computer version, which had me hooked, it should be worth investing in. It should be available around Christmas.

Onn Lee

CHEAT ZONE

● *Alien Storm* for Megadrive:
First, choose the Cyborg. Get hit by the enemy on purpose. When your life meter reaches 0, press self destruct. You should now be invincible!

● *Final Soldier* for the PC Engine:
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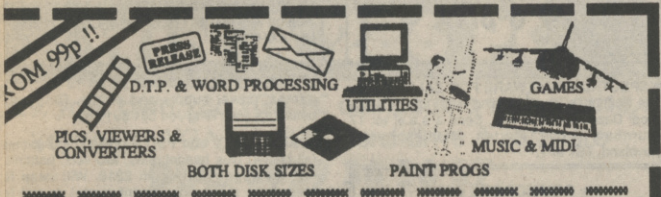

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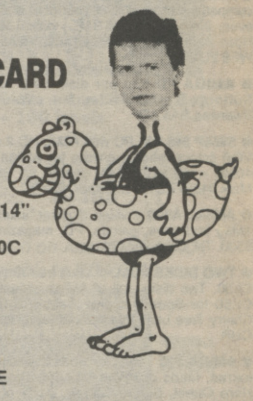

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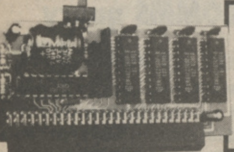

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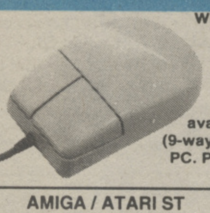

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TECH TIPS

Do you need quality desktop publishing output? Want some extra memory on your machine? Desperate for tips on how to kill that virus? It's all here...

GFA BASIC

I have a couple of queries about GFA BASIC. How can I print text in inverse for menus etc? Also, how can I detect if there is a printer on line or not?

THE INVERSE VIDEO query is an old problem. To turn on inverse video:

```
PRINT Chr$(27);"p"
```

and to turn inverse video off:

```
PRINT Chr$(27);"q"
```

After searching through several texts I discovered the GEMDOS call `$11 PRTOUT STAT (GEMDOS 17)` in Atari ST Internals by Abacus Software. This function returns the status of the Centronics interface. If a printer is not on line, then `D0` contains the value zero. If a printer is on line `D0` contains the value `$FFFF`. To use this from GFA BASIC use the following code.

```
IF Gemdos(17)
   PRINT "Printer on line."
ELSE
   PRINT "Printer off line."
ENDIF
```

See the Appendix on Special OS functions in the GFA manual.

Virus tips

In response to a plea from Michael Flanz (Express 148 – 'Tech Tips' section) in connection with a virus problem, I may be able to shed some light on his problem.

The symptoms he describes with the 'Australian Parasite' are only too familiar, as I recently had similar ailments with a disk of my own. I promptly ran it through 'Master Virus Killer' V2.1 and the program's alarm system soon informed me that it was infected with 'Revenge of the Lamer II' link virus. I then asked the program to cure my sick disk, but it kept informing me that my disk was write-protected – it wasn't!

Nevertheless, the program did inform me of the virus so I always switched off at the mains after using this disk.

A friend heard about my plight and passed on a virus checker entitled 'Nuke'. Eureka! The program picked up the virus and corrected my contaminated disk with one foul click of a mouse button. The odd thing here is that the program was checking for the 'Saddam' virus, not the Lamer II as mentioned above. Do you hear me moan? No way! No more disk-validator or read/write error prompts – everything is as it was before the virus attacked. This virus checker may not cure Michael's problem, but anything is worth a try.

If he (or any other reader) has any trouble obtaining this checker program, I would be only too happy to pass a copy along. Just pop a disk (virus free please) into a Jiffy bag along with the return postage and I'll send a copy by return post.

***Ronnie James, Alloa*, Scotland**

Video titling

I am interested in putting titles on my home videos. I understand that I will need a genlock, but am unsure as to the software I will need. Can you help?

Francis Allen, Newport, Gwent

THE ONLY SOFTWARE you absolutely need is a program to generate the titles you wish to overlay on the video footage. Probably the best value package for this sort of thing is the *Big Alternative Scroller* from Alternative Image Productions (0533 440041).

The program costs £50, and enables you to enter and display text in one of 20 typefaces. The text can be scrolled both vertically and horizontally, and you can alter the scroll-speed. The only drawback is that you need at least 1Mb to run it.

Fat facts

What is the difference between a Fat Agnus and an ordinary Agnus? How can I tell which one is in my Amiga?

Terrence Day, Teddington, Middlesex

THERE HAVE BEEN several different versions of the Agnus chip. It is one of the Amiga's custom chips concerned with graphics. The easiest way to tell which you have is to open up your machine and look. The serial number on the chip labelled 'Agnus' will tell you which version it is. The possibilities are as follows:

8361 – this is the original Agnus chip which was in the A1000 and found its way into some of the initial A2000s.

8371 (or 8370 for the American version) – is the most common chip, known as the Fat Agnus because of its more robust shape when compared to its predecessor. Both the Fat and ordinary Agnus chips can access 512K of Chip RAM, which is the memory used for graphics, animation and sound. (Any extra memory fitted will be configured as Fast RAM, and can only be used for programs, not graphics.)

8372a – this is the Fatter Agnus. The same chip is used for both the American and British systems, since it can operate in either PAL or NTSC mode. The main advantage it has over the others is that it can access 1Mb of Chip RAM, meaning that Amigas fitted with it can display more sophisticated animations and play more and longer sound samples. Some Amigas are fitted with this chip and yet have only 512K of Chip RAM.

Obviously, if you only have 512K then you can only have that much Chip RAM; but if you have more memory and yet only 512K of it is appearing as Chip RAM, then your circuit board may need a simple modification (best performed by a qualified engineer).

If you don't want to open your machine up (since doing so within a year of buying it will invalidate your warranty), then you can find out whether you have a Fatter or merely Fat Agnus by running the Public Domain program VectaCheck, available from most PD libraries.

COMMS query

I have recently bought a modem – it is a HI-Tec EC2400 MNP4 and 5 and the software I have used is *JR Comm, N Comm and Access!*, and all to no avail.

The problem is that every time I attempt to phone somewhere, and believe me I've tried everywhere, I keep getting the same two replies: either 'No dial

Macros maker

Macros read in the text as it is displayed to a user. Whether or not this text is generated by a formula is irrelevant.

That means that the following statement is possible:

```
@IF (A1 = A2, "{\a}", "{\b}")
```

This gives a conditional branch similar to the BASIC command

```
IF A = B THEN GOSUB 1000 ELSE GOSUB 2000
```

This is only one of the uses of this feature. The following macro {\a} for each filename listed in the range D1 to D20, the current filename is placed in cell b1.

```
/DFC1..C20 -1-1-20-          Fill in numbers next to the list for use
                             by the following formula:

@VLOOKUP
("{FOR B2,1," & @STRING(@COUNT (D1..D20),0) & ",1, nextstep}")
                             set up loop to be run for each value placed
                             in range D1..D20. Counter in B2 is also
                             used by VLOOKUP formula.
/REC1..C20-                  Erase numbers used by lookup
{indicate off}               Resets indicator

nextstep
{CALC}                       Recalculates formulae
("{let b1, " & @VLOOKUP (B2,D1..D20,1) & "}")
                             Place name of current filename in cell b1
{CALC}                       Recalculates formulae
("{indicate " & B1 &"}"      Places current filename in indicator
{\A}                                 Performs {\A}
{return}                     Returns to the loop command
```

Notice the {CALC} keynames. Whenever a Figure or Value affecting any of the formula generate macro commands is changed, then one of these is necessary or else your macro will not work. I hope that this information proves useful to some of your readers.

Gerald Byrne, Birmingham

tone' or 'No carrier'.

I have grasped from various documents that 'No carrier' implies that the modem did not respond, but:

1) What does 'No dial tone' imply?
2) What is a dial tone?
3) How can I rectify these problems?

The computer is an Amiga 500.

David Long, Milton Keynes

'NO DIAL TONE' implies that your system isn't connecting to the phone line. The dial tone is the noise that a phone makes when you pick it up. No carrier means that there was no other signal on the line that the modem could grab and link up with.

The simplest way to rectify the problem is to make sure first that your equipment is set up properly and that your software and the modem are set up as well. The first thing to do is test the lead between your Amiga and modem. To do this, try it on another COMMs set up that is known to work. Also, borrow and try a lead that is known to be working on your own set up.

Assuming that you have a working lead and still no COMMs, make sure that your software is configured to work at a speed the modem can handle. This information is in the manual. If the modem and the software still aren't talking, try the modem on someone else's COMMs set up and see if it responds. If at this point you are still getting no response, go through the modem manual with a fine-toothed comb and try any of the troubleshooting hints given.

As a last ditch attempt before you go screaming back to the shop where you bought the modem, check to make sure that you have a dialling tone. If you haven't, pay the phone bill or ring BT's engineers and all will be OK.

HELP Extra memory

After taking the lid off my Amiga 500, I noticed that there were a load of empty chip sockets on the circuit board, seemingly like those already filled with the Amiga's 512K of memory.

Now, I already have an extra 512K fitted in the trapdoor expansion slot, but I was wondering if I could gain another 512K simply by fitting more chips into the empty sockets on the A500 motherboard. Your advice would be appreciated.

Barry Donohue, Glasgow, Scotland

• You may have loads of empty chip sockets on your Amiga 500, but what use are they to you?

I'M AFRAID you can't make use of those slots. Apparently they are present on the more modern Amigas because of a plan by Commodore to sell Amigas with 1Mb of memory on the motherboard as standard. Although the plan has yet to be implemented, the slots are nevertheless present. Unfortunately, these extra slots are mapped to the same address space as the memory in the trapdoor expansion system, so you can't use both at once.

HELP Spec vs video

In order to keep things tidy, we all had our TV, video and computer cables professionally 'hidden' and routed. Everything worked fine until our son tried to use his Spectrum Plus 2 while the video was on.

The video and the computer interfered with each other. We contacted the firm that did the wiring for us, but they said that it wasn't their fault. The two pieces of equipment must be on the same frequency.

Is there a simple way to change the frequency of the Spectrum? We can't dismantle the video as Radio Rentals would have apoplexy.

Carole Williams, Newark on Trent

THE OUTPUT FREQUENCY of the Spectrum cannot be changed simply, but the video can. Computers and videos always seem to congregate around Channel 39 on the UHF band, and for that reason most videos have some sort of fine adjustment to tune their modulating frequency away from anything that might interfere with them.

If your video is a rented one, a phone call to Radio Rentals should bring a smiling engineer to your door to carry out the two minute job.

HELP Printer probe

I own a Commodore 64 with a Star LC-10C serial printer. Like many people, I am seriously considering upgrading to an Amiga A500. I was wondering if yu could give me some advice about using my serial printer on the Amiga.

I have consulted a friend's manual and it says that you can use a serial printer once you have changed printer options on the Printer Options on the Workbench package.

As I don't know a great deal about how the Amiga DOS works, I was hoping that you could tell me whether or not you can load any piece of software via the Workbench and, if so, will it use the printer settings previously set on the Workbench?

For example, if you were to load any art package, would it assume that you were using a parallel printer and send any print commands to the parallel port, or detect the serial printer connected to the serial port, or is it possible to change the printer options on the Workbench to print to a serial printer, then load the package?

Andrew Davies, Cardiff

TO PERSUADE THE AMIGA to drive a serial printer is a simple matter of going to the Preferences page on the Workbench, and installing the correct printer driver. There is a section in the Preferences page dedicated solely to the installation of printers and the Extras disk has served several printer drivers for most of the commonly used printers and for the most common formats. Pick the correct one for your printer and follow the installation instructions on screen. If you get another printer, or you need to use a different printer, it's a simple job of installing the relevant driver from Preferences.

Some software comes with its own printer drivers, and you will need to check whether or not these support a serial printer. Some of the whizzier software packages even allow you to configure more than one printer driver and choose from within the program.

HELP Accessories

I have an Atari 520STE upgraded to 4 meg and I am having a problem with desk accessories.

I always load the application I am going to use into a 2 meg RAM disk and run it from there for the increased speed advantage. I sometimes find that I need to load another accessory into the system after I have started working.

Is there a way to load another accessory into the desktop without losing the contents of my RAM disk?

Steve Hoggins, Crawley, Sussex

THE MOST OBVIOUS solution to your problem is to use an accessory loading utility such as DC Stuffer or MultiDesk. DC Stuffer is available from most PD libraries, whilst MultiDesk is by Codehead Software and is available from the Atari Workshop, on 0753-832212. I am not sure if DC Stuffer allows you to load accessories on demand, but I know that MultiDesk certainly will, as I use it myself.

I have found a method of loading an extra accessory without booting, although it is a bit of a tedious procedure. This will only work on colour monitors and assumes that you are in medium resolution.

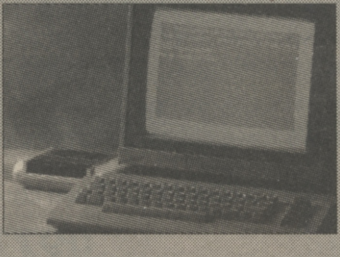
First of all exit the application you are in and return to the desktop. Then make sure that the floppy with the accessory you require is in drive A, and ensure that the other accessories *that you are already using* are also on the same floppy, and that all the accessories have valid .ACC extensions.

Now save the desktop to the floppy to retain all your current desktop icons and drives. Go to the set preferences option in the Options menu and select Low res. After the computer has reset to Low res, return to the preferences and reselect Medium res. The computer will reset screen resolution once more, loading in the accessories as it goes! You should now have your extra desk accessory along with your original applications in the RAM disk. ■

HELP Stop the press

I have a Commodore 64 computer, which I think will be adequate for the system I have in mind. I would like to publish newsletters and magazines on it, and have my eye on *Stop Press*. Is it possible to format disk output (1541) from such a system so that it can be printed professionally? Or is my ultra-cheap DTP idea impracticable?

James Johnson, Sutton, Surrey



• Using *Stop Press* you can get your C64 to produce quality posters, newsletters, forms and documents, but you'll also need a laser printer

The output from *Stop Press* is adequate for the production of posters, newsletters, forms and documents. However, it was designed for use in a domestic environment, and it isn't equipped to write files for use on commercial publishing equipment.

The best that you could hope to do is connect your C64 to a laser printer for high quality output. Then you would take the resultant output to a printer as 'camera ready' artwork, to be photographed into a published document.

The £1,000 or so that the laser printer would cost you would be better spent on a PC clone and a cheap desktop publishing package that could produce files that a computerised print shop could read directly.

If you only want to use *Stop Press* for the occasional document and high-quality output isn't essential then *Stop Press*, via a dot-matrix printer and photocopier will do.

PROBLEMS?

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AMIGA HELP CENTRE – A group to help novices. For CLI help disk and registration send £10 to Simdev, 29 Avon Square, Hemel Hempstead, Herts.

AMIGA HELPLINE SERVICES – Free club for young and old. Send SAE to G Keenan, 21 Skirsa Place, Glasgow, G23 3EE.

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AMSTRAD CPC USERS - Tony Baker, United Amstrad User Group, 26 Uplands Crescent, Fareham, Hants PO16 7JY. Tel 0329 234 291

AMSTRAD CPC HOME USERS – Steve Williams, WACCI, 9 South Close, Twickenham TW2 5JE. Tel 081-898 1090

AMSTRAD LOCAL GROUPS - Amstrad Groups Federation, 4 Sutton Road, Gorton, Manchester

AMSTRAD PC SOFTWARE - Colin Smith, Colbar, 10 Penwood close, Westbury, Wilts BA13

AMSTRAD PCW - Bob Ellis "Rowan" 100 St Peters Close, Moreton-on-Lugg, Hereford HR4 8DW. 0432 761 860

AMSTRAD PCW CLUB – Meets monthly in Ealing, London W7 and welcomes experienced PCW users and beginners. Details from Tony Brown on 081-841 3666.[2]

AMSTRAD 1512/1640/PPC - PC Independent User Group, The Computer Advice Centre 87 High Street, Tonbridge, Kent. Phone 0732 771 512

AMSTRAD BUSINESS USERS – Amstrad Professional User Club, Enterprise House PO BOX 10, Roper Street, Pallion Industrial Estate, Sunderland SR4 6SN. Telephone 091-510 8787

APPLE II USERS – tel 051 9284142.

APPLE MACINTOSH. John Lewis, Macintosh user group, Macintosh House, 11 South Parade, Summertown, Oxford OX2 7JL

APPLE SYSTEMS – Irene Flaxman, Apple 2000, PO Box 3, Liverpool L21 8PY.

ARABIC COMPUTING – Rich Lackey, Arabits, 9 Bellview road, Worthing, West Sussex BN13 1EY

ATARI ALL MACHINES – Colin Hunt, BaPAUG, Wimborne Road, Oakdale, Dorset BH15 3EF

ATARI AND ST PC EMULATOR SUPPORT CLUB – SAE to 153 Parrock Street, Gravesend, Kent, DA121ER

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B

BBC MICRO - BEEBUG, 117 Hatfield Road, St Albans, Herts AL1 4JS. 0727 40303

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COMMODORE AMIGA - UK Amiga Users Group. Contact 144 Charles Street, Leicester LE2 00D. Telephone 0533 510066 voice; 0533 517615

COMMUNITY COMPUTING - Community Computing Network 2nd Floor, 35 Pink Lane, Newcastle, NE1 5DW. Tel 091-261 0317

COMPUNET – write to Independent Compunet Club, 148 Furzehill Road, Boreham Wood Herts. WD6 2DX

CONFERENCING - Compulink, suite 2, The Scantuary, 23 Oakhill Grove, Surbiton, Surrey KT6 6DU Voice 081-390 8446. CIX BBS 081-399 5252

CPM & MSDOS Users Group – 42 Birkbeck Road, Wimbeldon, London SW19 9NZ. Tel 081-543 0824

CRYPTOGRAPHY & CODES - Mike Barlow, American Cryptogram Association 5052 Chestnut Avenue, Pierrefonds, Quebec HBZ 2A8 Canada

D

DATAEASE USER GROUP – High-Tech House, 10 Blackfriars Street, Norwich, NR3 1SJF

DISABLED - Jeff Hughes, Special Needs User Group, 39 Eccleston Gardens, St Helens WA10 3BJ 0744 24608

DRAGON - Paul Grade, National Dragon Users Group, 6 Navarino Road, Worthing, Sussex or tel 0903 207585

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ECONET - Michael Ryan, Econet User Gp, Balkeerie Cottage, Eassie by Forfar, Angus DD8 1SR

EDINBURGH AMIGA USER GROUP – For more details write to Neil McCrae, 37 Kingsknowe Road North, Edinburgh EH14 2DE or phone 031-443 6234 Monday to Friday 7-9pm.[2]

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GENERAL HOME MICROS - Steve Winter, Chic Computer Club, PO BOX 121, Gerrards Cross, Bucks SL9 9JP 0753 884473

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HOUSING ASSOCIATIONS - Caroline Maries, Micro Users Ltd, Beaver Housing Society, 23 Lewisham High Street, London SE13. Tel 081-318 1126

HEALTH WORKERS - Sue Mckendrick, Healthlink, 164 Windsor Rd, Ashton-in-Makerfield, Wigan WN4 9ES. Voice: 0942 712 385

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JUPITER ACE – John Charter, Jupiter Ace Forth User Group, 17 Spring Wood Close, Dunston, Chesterfield S41 8BS. Tel 0246 237555

L

LOCAL AUTHORITIES – Local Authority Micro User Group, John New, Borough Engineer's Dept, Municipal Offices, North Quay, Weymouth, Dorset DT4 8TA.. Tel 0305 785101 ext 272

LOTUS PRODUCTS - Lotus User Group, 79-80 Peascod St, Windsor, Berks SL4 1DH. Telephone 0753 841686

LYNX – R B Jones, Lynx User Group, 39 Ashton Close, Needingworth, St Ives, Cambs

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NIMBUG – write to 13 Belle Vue Ave, Gosforth, Newcastle-upon-Tyne NE3 1AH. Tel 091-285 7806

NORTHERN IRELAND AMIGA USERS – Send £2 for disk-based newsletter. Tips, news, reviews etc. NIAU, 98 Crebilly Road, Ballymena, County Antrim BT42 4DS.

NW ARCHIMEDES USER GROUP – Meets every Friday at Citizens Advice Bureau, next to Spectrum arena in Birchwood, Warrington. Ring Paul on 051-426 3915 after 6pm

O

OBSOLETE COMPUTER CLUB – Established 1990 to preserve and support Pre 1986 micros. Applications in writing to Mr S Walters, 42 Achilles Road, London NW6 1EA stating system details, date and history. All systems, micros and minis.

OLIVETTI PC1/PCS USER GROUP – Help with all aspects of these machines. Tel 0977 617077 or write to 68 Queen Elizabeth Drive, Normanton, W Yorks

ORIC ENTHUSIASTS – The contact point for all Oric support. 8 Staley Hall Road, Stalybridge, Cheshire SK15 3DT. Tel: 061-303 7369.

OSBORNE/CPM/MSDOS – write to Jeremy Browne BOOG, 102a Aldershot Road, Fleet, Hants GU13 9NY. Tel 0252 621745 voice or 626233 BB

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POSTSCRIPT USERS GROUP – JP McKeown, 3 Pedn Moran, St Mawes, Cornwall TR2 5BA.

PRESTEL - Andy Leeder, ClubSpot 810, Church Farm, Stratton St Michael, Norwich, Norfolk, NRQ15 2QB

PSION ORGANISER - Mike O'Regan, IPSO, 130 Stapleford Ln, Beeston, Nottingham NG9 6GB. Tel 0602 735482

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R:BASE – write to Mrs Tansy Beal, R:Base User Group c/o Room A2044 BBC Woodlands, 80 Woods Lane, London W12 0TT. Telephone 081-576 7187

RE-RUN USER GROUP– 8-bit user group. User support, newsletters and PD library. Send stamp and 10p for information to User Group, One Northolme Close, Grays, Essex, RM16 2NX.[2]

RESEARCH MACHINES - Steve Rochford RM National User Group, George Stephenson High School, Southgate, Killingworth, Newcastle NE12 0SA. Tel 091-268 2002

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SERVICES USERS - write to Squadron Leader G Howson, Services Personal Computer Association, Stlk Eng 15a HQSTC RAF High Wycombe, Buckinghamshire

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SPECTRUM PLUS 3 USER GROUP – monthly magazine. 57 Lovers Walk, Dunstable, Bedfordshire, LU5 4BG

SPECTRUM DISCOVERY CLUB – magazine on disk for the Opus Discovery Disk Drive and the Sam Coupé. BD Mumford, 57 St Saviours Road, West Croydon, Surrey, CRO 2XE

ST USER GROUP – Send an SAE for a news letter to ST User Group, Ben Dobson, 1 Ryedale Way, Selby, North Yorkshire YUO8 9PB.

STOURBRIDGE ATARI USERS' GROUP – for 8-bit Atari computers.Send SAE to LK Taylor, 99 Bredon Road, Stourbridge, West Midlands, DY8 4LA. Telephone 0384 379575

SUPER FAMICOM PENPALS CLUB (SFPC) – Growing club for ST owners. All new games reviewed. Write to : P Jess, 58 Legacurry Road, Ravarnette, Lisburn N Ireland.[2]

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T

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TEXAS T199/4a - Peter Brooks, International TI User Group 96 Banbury road, Oxford OX2 6JT. Telephone 0865 510822.

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EXT 21

PRICES & SPECIFICATION SUBJECT TO CHANGE E & OE

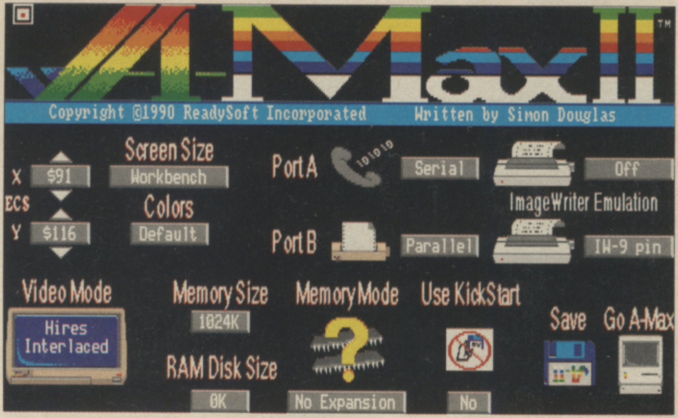
AMIGA

- **A1500 expansion case – last few must go at bargain prices to make way for A1500 Plus**
- **Is Sybil set to revolutionise the Amiga?**
- ***Workbench 2.0* set for a yuletide release**

Drooling over a new product is not something I do too often, but I must admit that BlitSoft's new Sybil utility has got me going. For those of you who didn't catch the news story on it in issue 148 of *Express*, it's a powerful multi-function hardware/software combination that enables your Amiga to achieve all manner of wondrous things.

Like all technical bods, I just had to have one, so I phoned up BlitSoft to find out more. After little more than a few minutes chatting to Paul Lesurf of BlitSoft, it became apparent just how powerful Sybil really is.

Here's a rundown of the very latest spec (it keeps changing, don't you know?):



Copyright ©1990 ReadySoft Incorporated   Written by Simon Douglas

X $91
ECS
Y $116
Screen Size: Workbench
Colors: Default
Port A: Serial
Port B: Parallel
ImageWriter Emulation: Off
IW-9 pin
Video Mode: Hires Interlaced
Memory Size: 1024K
Memory Mode
Use KickStart
RAM Disk Size: 0K
No Expansion
No

• **A-Max users will soon be able to directly read and write Mac-format floppies thanks to BlitSoft's Sybil**

MULTI-DOS TRANSFER – if you want to swap files with a friend that owns either an ST, PC or Macintosh, Sybil will allow you to directly read and write files to these disk formats. The Amiga has been happily reading and writing to PC and ST disks for years now (thanks to utilities like Consultron's CrossDOS and Central Coast's DOS-2-DOS), but the ability to read and write Mac disks with Amiga drives is an absolute Amiga first. In some respects, I can see quite a few people rushing out and buying Sybil for this feature alone!

A-MAX II PATCH – Because of Sybil's ability to read and write Mac disks, it's ideal for owners of ReadySoft's A-Max 2 Macintosh emulator. Sybil's developer has signed a deal with ReadySoft to build support for the unit into future releases of A-Max 2, enabling the emulator to directly read and write Mac disks from within standard Amiga disk drives. A-Max 2.1 (which supports Sybil) should be available very soon.

INCREASED DISK CAPACITY – If 880K just isn't enough, then Sybil is definitely for you. Thanks to some clever jiggery pokery, Sybil increases the storage capacity of Amiga disks from the standard 880K to a massive 1.12Mb. What's more, though, you'll need a Sybil unit connected to your Amiga to write to these higher capacity disks, any Amiga will be able to read them.

DISK COMPRESSOR – Now this is impressive. Sybil will take any disk and compress it to two AmigaDOS files, retaining copy protection and any other quirks. These files can then be stored on any mass storage device, allowing you to back up your favourite software with ease.

DISK BACK-UP – I don't agree with back-up devices, but I thought I ought to just mention that Sybil can also perform this function.

I'll be taking a closer look at Sybil in a couple of weeks time, so stay tuned for a comprehensive review.

☎ In the meantime, give BlitSoft a bell on 0908 666265.

A1500 GOES CHEAP

Checkmate's A1500 expansion system for the A500 has been with us for a couple of years now, during which time it has been doing very nicely thank you. In a fit of generosity, Checkmate has just announced that it plans to cut the price of the A1500 from its original price point of £230 to just £169.

Checkmate would have liked to have cut the price still further, but as the company itself admits, even this price leaves little room for profit.

For those of you who haven't seen or heard of it, the A1500 is a replacement casing for the A500 that not only makes the machine look a lot more appealing (let's face it, the A500 is ugly!), but has a number of other advantages.

For starters, the A1500 comes complete with a separate keyboard casing which separates the Amiga keyboard from the computer via a curly cable (just like the A2000). What's more, it also allows you to install an extra disk drive or even a hard drive inside the A1500 casing, with both drives facing forward.

The A1500 doesn't really come into its own until it comes to expansion. Just like Commodore's own 1500, the Checkmate A1500 offers greater expansion possibilities thanks to an add-on 'OverRider' unit which gives the it the ability to take advantage of B2000 cards including RAM expansions, hard drives, processor accelerators, genlocks and even the infamous Video Toaster.

One of the main reasons for the price drop is the recent announcement by Checkmate of its new A1500 Plus, which is a vastly improved version of the A1500. I won't bore you with the details, but Checkmate assures me that it's going to be pretty stonking. As always, you can look forward to a review within these pages.

Checkmate plans to offer all users of its existing expansion console the chance to upgrade to the A1500 Plus when it finally arrives. According to Checkmate's Steve Jones, this shouldn't more than £250. It may sound a lot, but you have to see the A1500 Plus to believe it – it really is that good.

Unfortunately, Checkmate only has a few A1500's left in stock (about 20 at the last count), so if you want one, I strongly advise that you get in touch with the company as fast as possible.

☎ Checkmate is on 071-923 0658.

Jason Holborn

EDITOR NAMED

Just before we went to press, Gold Disk finally came up with a name for its new video editing system that was previewed in issue 148 of *Express*. It is to be called 'Video Director', so keep your eyes open for that one.

☎ For more, give HB Marketing a bell on 0753 686000.

WORKBENCH 2.0 LATEST

Those of you eagerly awaiting the release of Workbench 2.0 for the Amiga 500 and 2000 will be pleased to learn that you haven't much longer to wait.

According to a developer close to the company, Commodore plans to make the upgrade available to all Amiga owners in time for Christmas.

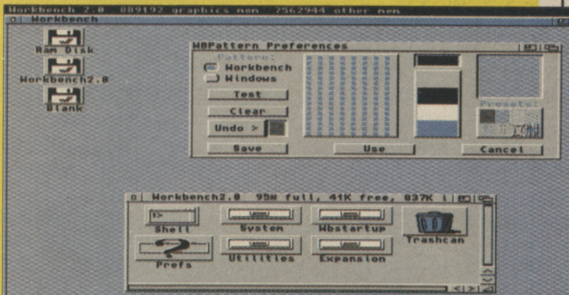
Like Workbench 1.3, the upgrade will consist of two parts – a 2.0 Enhancer Pack and the Kickstart 2.0 ROM. The Enhancer Pack contains two disks which contain Workbench 2.0 and Extras 2.0. Surprisingly, Extras 2.0 doesn't contain AmigaBASIC. This is despite the fact that sources close to Commodore were claiming that the company had commissioned MicroSoft to produce an upgraded release of its interpreted BASIC which took advantage of the extra facilities that Workbench 2.0 had to offer (a file requester at least!).

The price for the enhancer pack is still to be decided, but sources claim that Commodore is aiming for around £25.

The KickStart ROM is the most expensive part of the upgrade. Like 1.3, you'll have to take your machine to a registered Commodore dealer to have the chip fitted. Because the new chip is a much higher capacity than any previous Kickstart ROMs, the chip alone will probably cost around £50-60. Once again though, the price is yet to be fixed, so this could change.

Still no news whatsoever of the enhanced chip set, despite the fact that A3000 owners have been happily using it for over a year now. The new chip set adds higher and non-interlaced screen modes to the Amiga plus a far more capable blitter.

Despite a long wait Workbench 2.0 should be with us in time for a Christmas release.


Workbench 2.0 889192 graphics mem 7562944 other mem

Workbench2.0 95% full, 41K free, 837K

• **It now looks like the Extras disk that will come with Workbench 2.0 will not contain Amiga BASIC despite reports that Microsoft had been asked to update it**

ST

- A ECES special: what did the software houses have on offer for the ST user?
- The Christmas chart is set to be clogged with car racing games. Which'll come out on top?
- Tips for *Navy Seals* and *Killing Game Show*

The European Computer Entertainment Show may have been cancelled for the general public, but it was still open to trade visitors; which meant the show was mostly full of sober-suited distributors and dealers desperately trying to strike deals with the software houses.

It may have been the lack of people, but the show seemed very small and subdued, with no real life or atmosphere. Most of the major software houses were present in some form or another, though there were a few surprising omissions. Many companies, including Psygnosis, US Gold and Core Design, had no stands at all at the show itself, but were seeing customers at a nearby hotel.

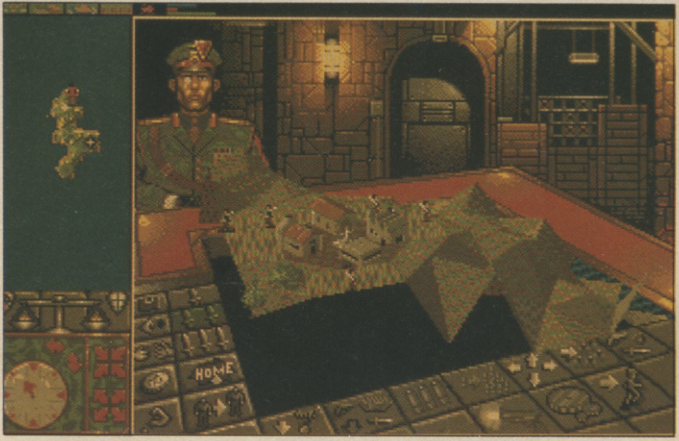
OCEAN had probably the biggest stand, complete with the obligatory person wandering around in a rubber Bart Simpson suit. This was to publicise its forthcoming licence of *The Simpsons*, which won't be out for a few weeks yet. *Sim Earth*, once mooted for Spring this year, is now unlikely to make it to the ST until Christmas.

VIRGIN had a surprisingly large and well-attended stand and was showing the excellent *Jimmy White's Whirlwind Snooker* and the forthcoming *Rolling Ronny*, an enjoyable platform/arcade game featuring one weird dude who spends his life roller-skating everywhere, hence the name.

ELECTRONIC ARTS announced several ST conversions due over the coming months; *Hard Nova*, *Strikefleet*, *Starflight 2* and *PowerMonger: World War 1 Edition* among them.

Hard Nova is a *MegaTraveller* clone in which you play a space mercenary on a mission to recruit a new crew after yours was accidentally killed in a freak accident. There are hundreds of planets to visit and many characters with which to interact, some of who will send you off on submissions and pay you handsomely in the process.

Strikefleet from LucasFilm is a warship simulator. Taking command of an entire fleet of warships, your job is to employ the appropriate ships with the appropriate strategies for any of 14 battle scenarios. All the hardware is included: cruise missiles, torpedoes, anti-submarine ASROCs (don't ask what an ASROC is) and so on in a game that is a 50/50 split between simulation and strategy.



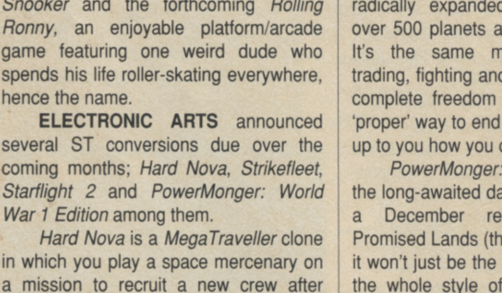
• *PowerMonger* is hardly recognisable in its *World War 1 Edition*. Note the redesigned graphics and icons; they've changed completely to take account of the game's new functions. Note also that the wall behind the stern-looking chappie is in serious need of some plastering

Starflight wasn't massively popular on the ST so the decision to convert *Starflight 2* is perhaps a little surprising. The sequel looks similar, but has been radically expanded and now includes over 500 planets and 150 star systems. It's the same mixture of exploring, trading, fighting and adventuring but with complete freedom of play – there's no 'proper' way to end the game; it's entirely up to you how you conclude it.

PowerMonger: World War 1 Edition, the long-awaited data disk, is now set for a December release. Unlike The Promised Lands (the *Populous* data disk) it won't just be the graphics that change; the whole style of gameplay will alter. Spears turn into biplanes, the Captains are now military Captains, and there are tanks, cannons and munition factories instead of catapults, swords and villages. The whole feel of the game will be different. At least, that's the plan.

MICROPROSE was showing the wonderful *Microprose Golf* (sort of makes sense), *Flames of Freedom* and previews of *Formula One Grand Prix*, which looks like being a major contender for the number one game this Chrissy.

It's a totally authentic simulation of the 1991 Grand Prix season, programmed by Geoff Crammond, highly respected author of *The Sentinel* and *Stunt Car Racer*. All 16 Grand Prix tracks are included and each racing team (Williams, McLaren and so on) has its proper colours.



• What sort of name is *Hard Nova*? Is it some sort of unintelligible pun that's completely lost on everyone except those who know every 68,000 instruction in Swahili as well as English? (Er – probably not)

The thing that makes the game a potential world-beater is its level of detail. For once, the other drivers can crash as well, so pile-ups can occur; cars are shunted off the track by race marshals, and then winched away; at a pit stop, the engineers are shown changing the wheels, checking the engine and even wiping your windscreen in full animation; the weather changes; your brakes and tyres wear out and even the wing mirrors are adjustable. All this is shown in minutely-detailed 3-D, with several external camera views available.

Also announced was the fact that the ST version of *Railroad Tycoon* is at last finished and that the game should be on sale later this month.

GREMLIN had some rolling demos of *Lotus Turbo Challenge* and it's looking pretty darn sexy. It's an altogether different game to *Formula One Grand Prix*, being less of a simulation and more a fun game, but it too includes plenty of details such as variable weather and a two player option via linked STs. Also on show were *Utopia*, the god game, described as being more like *Sim City* than *Populous*; *Daemonsgate*, a role playing adventure that Gremlin took over from another company and is currently finishing; and *Harlequin* and *Videokid*, two fairly standard platform games.

DOMARK's main pulls were *MiG-29M SuperFulcrum* (as featured in last week's ST column), *Pitfighter*, *Rugby – The World Cup* and *Race Drivin'*.

THE ST TIP SHOP

Just room for some game tips.

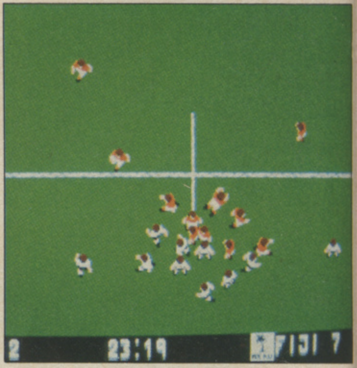
If you're finding *Navy Seals* a bit of a bugger (and if not, why not?) try entering WOZZIE into the high score table.

Then during the game you can use Return to skip levels and W to cycle through the weapons.

Another real pain in the bottom is *The Killing Game Show*. You may find it slightly easier if you try the following: when the message 'Good Luck' appears, press 'Help' for a map of the level. At least then you'll know exactly where you've been killed.

Pitfighter, a beat-'em-up in which the only aim is to survive against everyone else, is being converted from the Atari coin-op, the main feature of which was the massive sprites. These are retained in the ST version thanks to a clever bit of programming called real-time sprite scaling. All the sprites were drawn from real-life models so they're very convincing.

Rugby – The World Cup (not to be confused with Audiogenic's similar game, *World Cup Rugby*) should be released to coincide with the real thing next month. Domark says that the game, "is to rugby what *Kick Off* is to football." It seems to be based on the same principles of control and display as *Kick Off*.



• *Rugby – The World Cup* is a funny-shaped game with men for balls. No hang on, that's not it. It's a funny ball-shaped thing for men with games? No. It's not funny, it's got balls, and it's a game by Domark? Sounds likely

Race Drivin' is a follow-up to both *Hard Drivin' 1* and *2*, and takes those games one step further. It includes the same 3-D views and stunt tracks, but gameplay, display routines and opponents have all been improved.

It looks as though the charts will be clogged with racing games this Christmas.

Ed Ricketts

Ed Ricketts is games reviewer for ST Format, *the biggest and best magazine dedicated to the Atari ST.*

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PC

- **The Windows word processor war hots up**
- ***Excel 4.0* set for a January '92 release**
- **AMD and Intel in multi-million dollar lawsuit**
- **Is *Wordtris* just another word for addiction?**

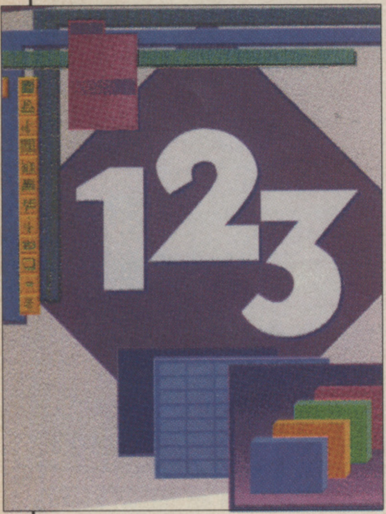
Advanced Micro Devices (AMD) has unleashed its lawyers upon Intel in an antitrust lawsuit. $2 billion is being demanded. The problem? AMD accuses Intel of using its market clout to pressure systems manufacturers who were considering using AMD's 386SXL and DXL clones into sticking with Intel's 80386 architecture.

AMD declared this move a violation of federal antitrust statutes. A scathing response from Intel chairman Andrew Grove dismissed the suit as ridiculous. Our Andrew then failed to impress the waiting, and slightly confused, press bods with his popular music knowledge as he proceeded to liken AMD to pop singing counterfeiters Milli Vanilli.

The suit itself also accuses Intel of conspiring with large computer manufacturers in allocating Intel's 386 and 486 chips. If successful, AMD could be awarded up to $6billion under antitrust provisions that automatically triple any damages.

LOTUS MAIL

Lotus plans to ship a *Windows 3.1* version of *cc:Mail* during October. This will be one of the first products to work with Microsoft's *Windows 3.1* which is due for release later this year.



• **Lotus' *1-2-3 for Windows* has received much praise from users for its customisable Smart Icons**

"Lotus *cc:Mail 1.1* takes advantage of some of 3.1's features such as new dialogue boxes," said a source. But, apparently, it does not support Object Linking and Embedding (OLE), a key feature of *Windows 3.1*.

Like *1-2-3 for Windows* and *Ami Professional 2.0*, the Windows *cc:Mail* upgrade will include Smart Icons, which means that they are customisable. The upgrade, free to current users, will cost $495 for new users. A UK price will be announced shortly.

☎ Contact Lotus on 0784 455445.

EXCEL AGAIN

Now that Lotus *1-2-3* for Windows is on the market, Microsoft has begun an early offensive by releasing snippets of info about the next version of *Excel* – version 4.0. In fact, company officials now say it may ship as early as January.

Excel 4.0 will probably feature a customisable tool bar. The praise that users have bestowed on Lotus *1-2-3* for Windows' customisable Smart Icons may have prompted Microsoft to show the prototype of the new *Excel* only seven months after shipping version 3.0.

"The issue becomes, `How do you implement the interface so that it's intuitive?'" said Hank Vigil, group product manager for Excel. "Direct manipulation, such as being able to customise a tool bar by moving an icon over to it and dropping it, is a theme we're going to push."

In the prototype a user could select with a mouse movable icons from several tool menus, for functions such as outlining, text formatting, drawing and performing mathematical calculations. Dropping these icons on the tool bar would install them in the user's custom configuration, after which the icons could be spaced apart in separate categories. You could also attach *Excel* macros to custom icons.

☎ Contact Microsoft on 0734 500741.

AMI PRO 2.0

Lotus's *Ami Pro 2.0* Windows word processor received a hearty welcome from beta users and analysts in the USA. *Ami Pro 2.0*, priced at $495, prompted some very impressed reactions:

"Microsoft *Word for Windows* isn't nearly as graphical as *Ami Pro 2.0*," said Harvey Rose, vice president at Shearson-Lehman Bros, in Tampa, Florida. "My nine-year-old can sit down and use *Ami Pro 2.0*."

Other users were also pleased. "*Ami Pro 2.0* goes well beyond word processing," said Greg Saddler, account executive at WKLS Radio, in Atlanta. "*Ami Pro*'s enhancements, which include rotating text and graphics, and about 50 macros, make the software more powerful than desktop publishing packages such as *Aldus PageMaker* or *Ventura Publisher*"

With *WordPerfect for Windows* and a new version of *Word for Windows* in the offing it looks like the Windows word processor war is well and truly underway.

☎ Contact Lotus on 0784 455445

Paul Rigby

BOOK OF THE WEEK

What an odd book. *Portable Computing – Official Laptop Field Manual* by Sebastian Rupley is innovative, ingenious and resourceful. Think about it. You've got a portable computer (and maybe a portable printer), packed to the gills with software. The last thing you want is to carry around five tons of computer manuals, support manuals, printer manuals, etc.

This book contains the essential bits of every popular manual you can mention – all in a book of around 200 pages. The only slight problem is that it is oriented towards the USA market. However, it is still essential reading and, let's face it, many laptop travellers end up in the USA at some time or another.

There are sections on laptops (hints on battery life, installation routines on seven different laptop manufacturers), printer codes, comms advice (including important comms network phone numbers – again this is American oriented), DOS reference and a short reference section on all of the popular software packages (Microsoft *Word*, *Wordstar*, Lotus *123*, *Norton*, etc). Finishing off with hints about laptops and air travel, phone numbers for car hire firms and hotels.

In a word – absolutely-bloody-brilliant (all right, I've cheated). Available in the UK via bookshops, computer stores or from Computer Manuals. ☎ 021706 6000.

• **Just the job for a portable laptop, a portable manual**

HAVE YOU HEARD THE WORD ON WORDTRIS?

Wordtris, from Spectrum Holobyte/Mirrorsoft, is the next game in the Soviet 'TRIS Series. This latest mind teaser is a cross between *Tetris* and a word puzzle set in motion. Supporting VGA, the game should be available as you read this.

The challenge is to manipulate tiles, each with a single letter, as they fall from the top of the computer screen into a well. You have to arrange them at the bottom of the screen to form a word to form a word. Once made, the word will be removed from the playing area and points awarded. The score is based on the number of letters in the word, the difficulty level (regular and advanced) and the complexity of the word.

Wordtris features a tournament mode, competitive mode, co-operative mode and head-to-head play. You have the option of either teaming up with a friend for a combined score or matching wits head-to-head. A 30,000 word dictionary gives you many possibilities to create even the most absurd words. Custom words, such as names, can also be included.

I've played a demo of *Wordtris* and it is ADDICTIVE!,Can't wait for the final version.

DOS 5 CORNER

After you have installed the DOS 5 upgrade you may notice that a file appears in your root directory called WINA20.386. What is it?

When installing on systems capable of running *Windows 3.0* in enhanced mode, the DOS 5 upgrade will place the above read-only file in the root directory. It provides support for *Windows 3.0* when it is running in enhanced mode. So whatever you do – don't delete it!

Also, if you suddenly find that you can't run Windows in Standard mode try removing the Device lines for EMM386 and DEVICEHIGH from the CONFIG.SYS file and any LOADHIGH commands from the AUTOEXEC.BAT.

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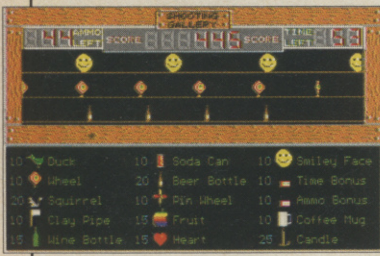
THE PD COLUMN

For those of you who take the PC seriously, and the rest of you who use it just for kicks – this week James Leach gets his hands on a whole bunch of software in a special PC PD round-up

This week the PD Column rounds up as much PC compatible Public Domain software it can find. Owing its business orientation, the PC seems to attract a great deal of word processing, database and spreadsheet packages. However, Swindon based Eigen PD Software has deliberately maintained a balance between these and the more recreational type of programs. In a later PD Column, I'll be looking at the serious business software, but for now here are some of the more entertaining items they can provide.



10	Duck	10	Soda Can	10	Smiley Face
10	Wheel	20	Beer Bottle	10	Time Bonus
20	Squirrel	10	Pin Wheel	10	Ammo Bonus
10	Clay Pipe	15	Fruit	10	Coffee Mug
15	Wine Bottle	15	Heart	25	Candle

• How quick is your draw? *Shooting Gallery* tests your skills

ARE YOU A HOT SHOT?

Shooting Gallery is the sort of game every ST and Amiga owner will be familiar with. Basically you control a set of cross-hairs on screen, and various targets appear which have to be shot. Points are awarded for speed as well as accuracy, and there are sections devoted to skeet shooting (what we British call clay pigeons), a fairground-style shooting gallery with ducks, crockery and cuddly toys parading past in front of you, a quick-draw arena where you have to whip the cross-hairs up from the bottom of the screen on to the target as quickly as possible.

There is also the obligatory game segment in which you must shoot the baddies as they stick their heads round the sides of some old Western style buildings. You have to avoid the civilians and innocents who do their level bests to get in the way of the gunfire.

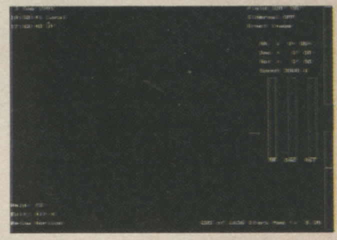
Shooting Gallery is a lot of fun and is very well presented. It's simplicity makes it one for the kiddies, though.

SPACE OUT

Eigen PD has also got hold of a comprehensive ray-tracing program called ***Render***. Such an item isn't common in the PC world (at least, not as Public Domain), and this is an excellent example, and has the C source code included.

Starview presents you with, on first sight, a black screen peppered with little pixels at random intervals. Take a closer look and you might twig that the pixels actually represent the stars of the night sky. The whole program is mouse driven and allows you to scroll around the sky and peer at any of the constellations as seen from the northern hemisphere.

You can zoom in on items of interest, such as the planets in our solar system, particularly close stars and so on. Again, Amiga and ST owners might have seen it all before, but ***Starview*** on the PC is presented in a nice fashion, easy to use and if you're interested in the heavens it's a useful educational tool to keep in a corner of your hard drive.



• Calling budding Patrick Moores - *StarView* illuminates the night sky

FAST FRACTALS

Once again, fractals rear their infinitely regressing heads. ***Fractint***, available from Eigen PD is the first fractal PD

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D128) Sleeping Bag Demo
D130) System 5 Demo
D132) Alpha Flight Megademo 2
D134) Share And Enjoy 46
D136) Thames TV Demo
D138) Vision Megademo
D140) Fast Cars Slideshow
D142) Mobed
D145) Kefrens Wall Demo
D147) Beast 2 Preview
D149) Treacl
D151) Share and Enjoy 47
D153) Simpsons Mini Mega (XXX)
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U035) System Checker
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U056) Wordwright Wordprocessor
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G034) Trek Trivia
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package I've seen on the PC. More than 40 different fractal types are supported within the program and the coding is pretty slick; it takes under a minute to plot the famous Mandelbrot set in 640 by 350 resolution on a 286 machine. So ***Fractint*** is arguably the fastest fractal program on any computer yet.

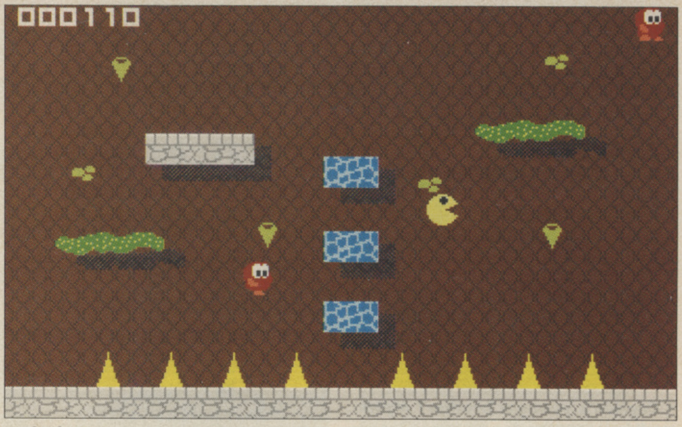
That old favourite, the genealogy package also makes an appearance in Eigen's collection of disks. The program is called ***Brother's Keeper*** and has been updated several times, so now is very easy to use and rather thorough.

It enables you to type in long and (to everyone else) boring lists of your ancestors. It sets out your antecedents in a neat and clear form so you can see exactly from whose loins you sprang. Tracing your relatives back to nitrogen in the atmosphere before the Earth was formed isn't recommended, but if any package is powerful enough to do this, ***Brother's Keeper*** is.

ADDICTIVE BLOBS

LAPD has got ***Space Blob*** for the ST at the moment. ***Space Blob*** is a platform game with an infuriating addictive quality. The title basically says it all; you are a small creature reminiscent of the dinosaurs in ***Bubble Bobble*** and you must collect all the fruit on each screen. This involves hazardous jumping and judicious avoiding of the monsters who patrol the screens.

There are plenty of other pitfalls for the unsuspecting blob to fall into and



• Platforms are back in fashion, *Space Blob* for the ST

DEMO WARS – THE BATTLE FOR SUPREMACY

Often it isn't the new full-price games on the market that push your Amiga or ST to limits. You just need to take a look at the demos that are around.

Demo creators manage to get the most amazing effects from their chosen hardware, driven by their egos and the desire to 'get one over' on all the other demo crews out there. The ST demo scene has witnessed such a battle for supremacy over the last 18 months. The Care Bears (a British demo squad) has locked horns with The Lost Boys (a British and German group). The result was a fax war, which involved the (childish) trading of insults between their respective fax machines last summer.

Now the teams have redoubled their programming efforts, and the results are spectacular. The Lost Boys have come up with something called the *Ooh Crikey, What A Scorcher!* mega demo. It all fits on one disk (but requires a 1Mb STE to play it), and contains several music and graphics demos linked by a game in which you pilot a spacecraft over a fractally produced 3D landscape from landing strip to landing strip. Every time you land at a new location, you get to see a new demo.

OUT OF THIS WORLD

And the demos are out of this world. Sampled house music mixes with psychedelic graphics to produce a complete entertainment experience. If you've never seen a decent PD demo (or any demo) then this is the one to go for. The Lost Boys have taken the display right to edge of the screen on all four sides, and have produced colours you didn't think your STE was capable of. The Care Bears will just have to try and top it if they're to regain their credibility. I can't wait to see what both The Care Bears and The Lost Boys will produce next.

Meanwhile, Persistence Of Vision, another demo team has produced a two-disk demo of Queen's The Invisible Man. It's garnished with plenty of graphics and the overall quality is very good.

It's worth noting that often you can get hold of music demos such as this and Nightshift PD's KLF 91 demo for about the same price as the single. So you get the tune plus a load of graphics as well. If you've got a stereo STE linked up to your hi-fi, you're laughing.

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there are also a few puzzling screens requiring a bit of the old grey matter. Good, wholesome fun (and not a £25 price tag in sight!)

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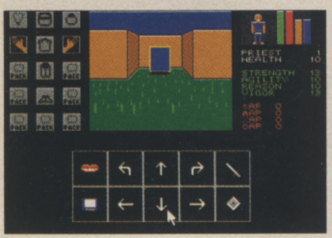


• Captive's younger brother? *Mystic Well* from EMPDL for the ST

Just when you thought it was safe to get nostalgic about all the psychological tests you used to be able to get for the old Spectrum, Jennix PD has just gone and released a ***Biorhythms*** program for the Atari ST. Type in your date of birth, today's date and the exact structure of your DNA, and you're presented with the three waves which govern your every move, physical feeling and emotion.

The display is much better than old the old Speccy, but the end result is the same – you'll find out just why you've been snapping at your work-mates all day. But if you aren't as cynical as me, ***Biorhythms*** is pretty to look at, easy to use and could help you with those all important business decisions.

If you liked ***Captive*** on the ST, you might be looking for a game with similar mechanics in the Public Domain. Well now there is one (of sorts). It's called ***Mystic Well*** and strays into the realm of *Dungeons and Dragons.* You can choose to play a Wizard, Fighter, Rogue or Priest and you wander off into the 3D world of the Mystic Well looking for excitement and adventure.

The game is, it has to be said, looks and plays much simpler than Captive, but the mechanics are very similar. ***Mystic Well*** is available from ST PD experts Riverdene PDL.

DON'T MISS OUT!

The PD Column needs as much PD software as you can send. If you run a PD Library, please put all your best stuff, be it serious, games, demos or whatever in a jiffy bag and send it to James Leach's PD Column, New Computer Express, Future Publishing, 30 Monmouth Street, Bath BA1 2BW.

Get your library mentioned to over 20,000 potential PD users. Don't miss

FLASH 'N' CASH

On the Amiga this week you can get hold of a home accounts package called ***Amicash***.. Anything with the prefix Ami- must be from Amiganuts, and sure enough, that's Amicash's home.

It's a neat cash management program with easy to use features, a clear menu and no frills. You simply go through your cheque stubs or statements, typing in the data and the program tells you how healthy the account is (or much trouble you're in).

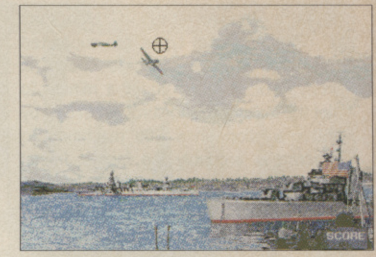
The only sums it needs to do are addition and subtraction, but it's so quick and easy to use you might come to rely upon it. The instructions are, as always with Amiganuts' releases, very clear.

Keep it updated and consult ***Amicash*** once or twice a month and you need never have your house repossessed again!

CHIPPING IN

Amiganuts has also put out a few more demos. One of the best is Mr Potato Head in ***The Chips Are Up***. Mr Potato Head is an icon of the 90's, and his jumping-into-a-bucket-of-water exploits have a serious message for us all. OK, so it's really for the kids, but the animation really is cartoon-like and there is much to learn for any potential Amiga-using Walt Disney.

Amiganuts has also got hold of a very pretty game from the States called ***Pom Pom Gunner***. It's nothing to do with shooting cheerleaders (bit topical, that) but has everything to do with protecting Pearl Harbor (sic) in 1941 from the waves of Zeroes which are intent on sinking all the US warships ensconced therein. The game owes something to ***Beach Head***, but is nevertheless good fun, and the urge to rewrite history will keep you playing long after the original raiders had actually gone home for tea and sushi.



• *Pom Pom Gunner* gives you the chance to rewrite history

MOZART, HITS AND MISSES

The wacky Wakefielders at 17-Bit Software have been busy. 17-Bit has put out a couple of ***Mozart*** disks to commemorate the bi-centenary of the great man's death. The disks are packed with his concertos for horn, flute and violin and other instruments. The quality is remarkably good and the lack of whizzy graphics during the playing of these rather grown-up pieces of music means that 17-Bit has managed to get even more data on the disks.

Also from 17-Bit is a very useful ***Utilities*** disk, If you need to examine your memory, fiddle with your disks or just make things easier in the day-to-day running of your Amiga, you'll find software that will help here.

But if you think 17-Bit is getting too sensible in its old age, there's a new disk out featuring a girl called Erika from *Baywatch*. Should this be allowed? I'll leave it for you to write and tell me. ■

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Business Pack 1: A selection of some of the best business utilities in Shareware including Aseasyas, Galaxy, Wampum, Sideways (sideways printing) and Spell-Check)

Arcade Games Pack 1: This is a superb collection of games. The majority need at least CGA. The games in this pack are: Ford Simulator 2, NYET, PC-Darts, PC-Pool, Nitefire and Pylon (race planes around pylons)

Utilities Pack 1: There are too many programs on this pack to list in the space here but amongst them are Flexibak and Alt (task switching). Plus file-find utilities, disk copying programs, DOS front ends and many more.

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PD LIBRARIES A-Z

You've read the column, so now you want to know where you can get hold of the software. That's where the *Express* PD library listing steps in...

ENTERING THE DOMAIN

New libraries open up every week, and *Express* is the best way to tell the world that you have arrived on the scene. If you want to be included in the list fill in the form on below. New entries are highlighted in this box.

PD library entries will only be included in the listing for eight weeks. If you want to keep your library in the listed, just send us a note to say you're still operating.

● **ZOMBIE PD – Zombie eaters latest ST PD disk catalogue available now. No charges! Send blank disk plus SAE and your list to 41 Buckingham Avenue, Penwortham, Preston, Lancs.[3]**

● **SHAREWARE/PD – Windows, clip-art and GIF shareware for the PC. Send disk and SAE for list to T Wishart, 3 Berwick Road, Port Glasgow PA14 5QN.[3]**

● **TOWER PD (ST) – For POV and other Atari ST PD software. £1.50 per disk. Send £1 for disk catalogue to PO Box 40, Thornton-Cleveleys, Blackpool FY5 3PH.[3]**

● **ZEON'S LAIR – PD software for the C64. Send 35p stamp to Zeon's Lair, 4 Garden Close, Penrith, Cumbria CA11 7L0 for free catalogue on disk. Free software.[3]**

● **ATARI ST DEMO SPECIALIST – Superb range of POV demos, megademos, super singles, music modules, slideshows, uilities. Send £1 for catalogue disk. Unit 1, Johnson's Shopping Centre, 29/31 Bond Street, Blackpool FY4 1QB.[3]**

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● **RICHARD KIRK PD – Atari ST PD just £1 or 45p per disk. Send disk plus SAE for catalogue to R Kirk PD, Copes Farm, Withington, Leigh, S-O-T, Staffs ST10 4PN.[3]**

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17-BIT SOFTWARE – PO Box 97, Wakefield, West Yorks WF1 1XX. Tel: 0924 366982.

ADES PD LIBRARY – Where all PD is less than £1. Some free. Send SAE for great details. Address 15 Deanes Close Dovercourt Essex C012 4SH.

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AMIGA ANSWERS – The first integrated programmers PD library and problem solving service £1.50 for catalogue and programmers utility disk. Amiga Answers, 11 Mill Hill Road, Norwich.

AMIGA NON-RIP OFF PD – For good Demos send disks, return postage to Mark, 50 Victoria Avenue, Sleaford, Lincolnshire NG34 7LN. Most demos: not allowed in profitable libraries.

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ATARI ST PD – software to swap. Send SAE plus disk to 29 King George's Road Bishopsworth, Bristol or tel 0272 640217.

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BOOT UP PUBLIC DOMAIN – Amiga Public Domain. Only £1 per disk Send 75p for catalogue disk to Carol Wellington, 30 Sunnings Lane, Upminster, Essex RM14 2DQ.

BROADSWORD PUBLIC DOMAIN – Atari ST PD. 70p per disk. Send disk plus SAE to Flat 4, Moreton Court, 212 Dover Road, Walmer, Deal, Kent CT14 7NB. Over 350 disks.[2]

BUDGIE UK – 5 Minster Close, Rayleigh, Essex SS6 8SF

BURMAN'S PD – Amiga PD for 40p. For a catalogue on disk, a few demos and a game send a stamp and disk to Burman's PD, 41 Pinner Park Gardens, Harrow, Middlesex, MA2 6LQ

BYTEBACK – 6 Mumby Close, Newark, Notts NG24 1JE. Tel: 0636 79097.

C HACK'S PD LIBRARY – Captain Hack's PDL. ST Demos/Adult. Free disk catalogue; Blankie 60p plus SAE to 19 Latimer Drive, Laindon, Basildon, Essex. Tel: 0268 416 888.

CALEDONIA PDL – 250 Oldtown Road, Hilton, Inverness IV2 4PT. Tel: 0463 225736.

CAPRICORN COMPUTERS – 35 Warwick Road, Olton, Solihull, West Midlands B92 7HS.

CHEZRON SOFTWARE – 605 Loughborough Road, Birstall, Leicester LE4 4NJ.

CHRISTIAN COMPUTER CONCEPTS – Christian PD/shareware. 5.25-inch. Ian Hurst, 7 Perrybrook Walk, Ashton in Makerfield, Wigan WN4 8TR.

CIRCULAR PD LIBRARY – 14 Morrison Drive, Lennoxtown, Glasgow G65 7BA

CLYDESIDE SHAREWARE – 900 megs to choose from! Clydeside Shareware PD and Shareware for PCs from £1.50 a disk. Write to Ian Tweedie, 50 Ottoline Drive, Troon KA10 7AW. Tel: 0292 313312.

COLONIA PDL – PD swap shop! Amiga and ST. Over 350 titles. One for one. Swap free. For list write to 4 Eastfield Street, Lincoln LN2 5ES.[2]

CRAZY DIAMOND PD – For the ST. Send SAE and blank disk for catalogue and free PD to 58 Hillside Road, Sudbury, Suffolk CO10 6SA.[2]

DELTA C64/128 PUBLIC DOMAIN – Send SAE for details to Delta PD, 39 Station Road, Claydon, Ipswich, Suffolk IP6 OHS.[2]

DELUXE AMIGA – Exclusive review of Terminator 2 in issue 1. Send a £1 cheque/PO to Antony Grace, 2, Furzefield Crescent, Reigate, Surrey RHZ 7HQ.

DISCOVERY PD – Coming soon. For Atari ST. Wide selection and excellent after sales help. Disks £1-1.50. Disk catalogue 50p. Write to J Thoroughgood, 114 Sandringham Way, Frimley, Surrey GU76 [2]

THE DISK – Stephen Lord, 6 Stubbington Brink, Hebden Bridge, West Yorkshire HX7 6LR.

DRAGON PD – Programmers wanted for Amstrad, CPC 6128 PD library. For more info, write to: Dragon Road, 415 (flat) Whitehall Road, Bristol, BS5 73P.

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IMG CLIP ART – GDOS fonts for sale or swap. For catalogue send blank disk plus SAE or £1 to E Renner, 62 Broxholme Lane, Doncaster.

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JAMES & JAMES PD – Atari PD from £1 disk. Bristol 668137. PD swapped and sold.

JASE PD LIBRARY – utilities, games, demos etc. £1.25 per disk. Write to 9 Broadfield Square, Enfield, Middx EN1 3PA for a catalogue or send £1 for catalogue disk.

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KEV'S PD – Amiga £1 disk. K Larkin, 12 Hathaway Court, Cheriton Rd, Gillingham, Kent ME8 0ES.

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MERTON PD – Cheap ST PD. Send £1 or blank disk for catalogue with SAE (cheques payable to T Huq) to: 10 Grasmere Avenue, London SW19 3DX.

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NEURAL IMAGES PD – Send an SAE to4, Flint Walk, Throston Grange, Hartlepool, Cleveland. TS26 DTE for your free PD Disk. No catches!

NIGHTSHIFT – 8 Bertelin Road, Beaconside, Stafford ST16 3JJ.

OWN PC CLUB 7 SHAREWARE – 73A East Street, Blandford Forum, Dorset DT11 7DX. Send blank disk plus stamp for catalogue. 25p each prog.

PAD PD AND SHAREWARE LIBRARY – For the Amiga user. Send SAE for details to: PAD Public Domain Library, 41a Saint Augustine Street, Norwich, Norfolk, NR3 3HF.

PARADISE COMPUTERS (GLOBAL) – 9 Westfiled Crescent, Brighton, East Sussex BN1 8JB.

PAWS PD – Lichfields only PD library. Disks £1. Swaps welcome. Send a SAE for list to: Anthony Cooper, 14 Purcell Ave, Lichfield, Staffs WS13 7PJ.

PROPHECY PDL –ST PD. Send SAE and disk or a cheque for £4.50 to Prophecy PD, 390 Coulsdon Rd, Old Coulsdon, Surrey, CRS 1EF. Competitive prices.

REAL PD – Amiga PD libraries – wanna join real PD? For more info write to Mark, 50 Victoria Avenue, Sleaford, Lincolnshire NG34 7CN.[2]

RIVERDENE PDL – 30a School Road, Tilehurst, Reading, Berks RG3 5AN.

ROBOT PD – 2 Trent Road, Oakham, Rutland LE15 6HF.

SAINT JOHN'S SCHOOL LIBRARY PDL – ST PD software for sale or swap. Write to St John's School Library PDL, c/o Mark Ash, 54 Beaconsfield Road, Sittingbourne, Kent ME10 3BB Tel:0795 425653 after 4pm.

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SOLENT SOFTWARE – Atari ST. 53 Rufus Gardens, Totton, Hants SO4 3TA.

THE SOURCE PD – For the ST. Compacted demos disks. £1.50 each. Write to: 7 Shearwater Lane, Norton, Stockton, Cleveland TS20 1SH.

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STAR PD – Atari ST PD library fast 'n' friendly! Send blank disk and SAE. for free PD and our disk-based catalogue: Star PD, 1 Solva Road, Clase, Swansea SA6 7NX.

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TANK PD – disks only 60p (members), 75p (non-members). Prices include p&p. Hundreds of titles. Send blank disk and SAE to: 4 Chandos Road, Redland, Bristol BS8 6PE.

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WINDMILL SOFTWARE – Our catalogue describes programs not disks. SAE and 50p or disk for ST catalogue to P Raeburn, Windmill Software, 360 Windmill Road, Ealing, London W5 4UR.

WIZBIT PUBLIC DOMAIN LIBRARY – New Macintosh PD library. Disks £3. Around 100 disks available. Introduction pack £1 from Wizbit PD, 38 Greenbank Gardens, Edinburgh EH10 5SN.

Inclusion in this list does not mean that *Express* endorses or recommends any individual library. If you find any that you are impressed or otherwise with a library, write to *NCE*, 30 Monmouth Street, Bath BA1 2BW

PD Library name..

Details of service offered ....

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Address...

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Phone no...

Send to: PD Listing, NCE, Future Publishing, 30 Monmouth St, Bath BA1 2BW

Games Week

Being oh so topical – Stuart Campbell checks out the CES and lets you in on all the new releases to expect in your High Street pretty soon

STAR RATINGS

★★★★★ = Immortal
★★★★ = Impeccable
★★★ = Imperfect
★★ = Impermissable
★ = Immoral

CES REPORT

Nostalgia Trip No.1499 – 'I remember the CES Show when people used to go to it...'

This year's bash at Earl's Court was distinguished mainly by the amount of floorspace which was empty and blocked off. Few companies bothered to put in much of an appearance, and dragging the affair out for four days seemed to be stretching things just a little too far. Still, those who did show up had some interesting stuff on offer, even if you did have to queue up for 20 minutes beside the stand's single monitor to get a look at it...

Ocean was progressing apace with ***Robocop III***, which is already considerably advanced on the preview I told you about a few weeks ago. There's lots more in there now, including a wild 3D beat-'em-up section and some top driving action, and the whole thing's had an injection of speed too.

Keep an eye on this one, it could be special. Also on show they had (at last) an early Amiga version of coin-op conversion ***Smash TV***. It's looking very violent and very fast, and most importantly, it doesn't slow down when the baddies start to pile on screen in ridiculous numbers.

The WWF wrestling game was underway (although still at a very early stage) too, but the most exciting development was ***Parasol Stars*** (***or Bubble Bobble III***). Looking and playing like a cross between the two previous games in the series (***Bubble Bobble*** and ***Rainbow Islands***), this is an absolutely gorgeous arcade game which is being very accurately translated from the PC Engine original. There was a fair amount already done, and I for one can't wait to see the finished article. If it's anything like its predecessors, stand by for fun on a global scale.

Activision didn't have an awful lot going on, but it did have ***Shanghai II – Dragon's Eye*** up and running on PC and Super Famicom. Both versions are lovely, but the Famicom version is, as you might expect, the lovelier. The presentation is outstanding, and Activision has even managed to use the hardware scaling and rotation, which is quite a feat for a Mah Jong game...

TOP 10
ALL FORMATS BUDGET

THIS WEEK	LAST WEEK	TITLE	PUBLISHER	MACHINE
1	1	*New Zealand Story*	Hit Squad	SP CO AM ST AG
2	5	*Shinobi*	Mastertronic	SP CO AM ST AG OT
3	6	*Moonwalker*	Kixx	SP CO AM ST AG OT
4	3	*Cabal*	Hit Squad	SP CO AM ST AG
5	2	*Bubble Bobble*	Hit Squad	SP CO AM ST AG OT
6	4	*Dizzy Panic*	Code Masters	SP CO AM
7	12	*Double Dragon*	Mastertronic	SP CO AM ST AG OT
8	7	*Quattro Skills*	Code Masters	SP CO AM
9	10	*Magic Land Dizzy*	Code Masters	SP CO AM
10	13	*Fantasy World Dizzy*	Code Masters	SP CO AM ST AG

ST = Atari ST AG = Commodore Amiga PC = IBM PC or compatible SP = Spectrum CO = Commodore 64 AM = Amstrad OT = Other.
Chart compiled by Gallup. © European Leisure Software Publishers Assoc.

BLADE WARRIOR

• IMAGE WORKS • ST AND AMIGA

Having trouble defeating nasty old Murk in this atmospheric hack-'em-up from Image Works? Why not see if these cryptic hints point you in the right direction?

You can encounter Murk during the game. Each time you defeat him he will come back stronger the next time. If possible, try to avoid fighting him until the end, then he will be at his weakest.

The orchid and humming bird are not required to finish the game, and you only need to collect one of the two Stone Flutes.The Dragon spittle may be hard to find!

Different monsters require different attacking 'moves' to destroy them. Learn which are most effective. The best strategy is to move into the monsters to hit them as the strike will be more effective than if you fight them from a distance and allow them to back off.

Travelling from your own tower on the back of a dragon may take you back to the last tower you visited, depending on the mood of your dragon. Travelling from any other tower will always return you to your home tower, if you survive the attack of the harpies.

Save regularly. Only six different saves are allowed on each blank disk that you use.

The following Wizards want the following items to trade for their tablet fragments:

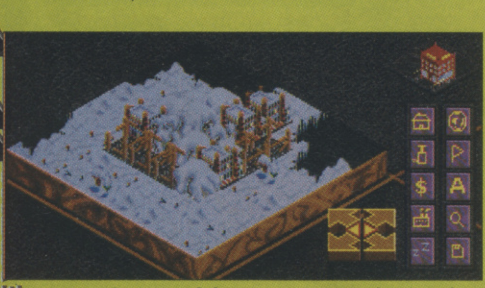
SWAMP WIZARD wants Ginti's Amulet
WEST WIZARD wants the Silver Ring
NORTH WIZARD wants the Talisman of the Moon
EAST WIZARD wants the Helmet and the Name
PALACE WIZARD wants the Banshee's Wail
PINE WIZARD wants the Swamp Fish Sparkle
SOUTH WIZARD wants the Crystal

UTOPIA

Gremlin • ST and Amiga • £29.99 ★★★

Gremlin's entry into the getting-very-crowded god sim market takes elements from two of the genre's best games (*Sim City* and the imminent *Mega lo Mania*) and attempts to weld them together into an epic of metropolis-building with a confrontational edge.

As commander of a newly-colonised planet it's your job to build the settlement up into a thriving and happy civilisation, but there's a threat on the horizon. Alien races are eyeing up your new city greedily, and at a point sometime in the future, they're going to attack. When they do, you have to have built enough defences and armed forces to be able to defeat them in battle.



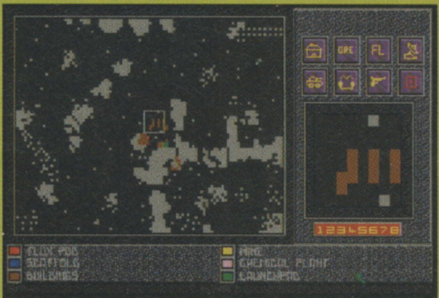
• *Utopia*: a good (but not great) *Gods* -sim of rather less than gargantuan proportions

Luckily, you have teams of scientists and engineers at your disposal, and if you fund them well enough they'll come up with the goods. Beware though, your funds are limited and you have to grow food, produce air, and keep the population occupied at the same time.

Anyway, to cut an enormous manual short, *Utopia* is a pretty good *Sim City* clone. Where it falls down is by being just all too easy. My first game lasted all day and I oversaw the development of a huge, thriving and militarily powerful colony with more money than it knew how to spend, and alien armies were conspicuous by their absence after the first few battles.

The city-building element was (compared to the game's illustrious predecessor, at least) simplistic, and the population wasn't too demanding, so there was very little feeling of triumph against adversity.

The instructions claim that a tough target is to get the 'Quality Of Life' rating (much like the popularity rating in SC) above 80 per cent, but that seems like a bit of a cop-out to me. There isn't much going on in the way of problems or dangers in *Utopia*, and the all-important game element of challenge is missing, to crippling effect. I had high hopes for this game, but it didn't really live up to them.



• Still, there are plenty of characters who'll do your bidding. Bossy types will love this...

Gremlin had an impressive set of products on the go, the star of which still has to be ***Lotus Turbo Challenge 2***. A significant improvement on the last preview version I saw, this could well turn out to be the ultimate arcade driving game.

Harlequin looks good too, a ***Strider***-inspired platform runaround, but with a surreal feel to it. This one doesn't look too far off, so expect it in the next couple of months.

At System 3, the big deal was *Last Ninja 3*, which Games Week covered last week. The best prospect though, was a game which the team premiered at the show called ***Fuzzball***. It's a cute platform game in the mould of ***Bubble Bobble***, and System 3 has been working on it secretly over the last year or so. Totally simple and hugely playable, I think it could be a surprise smash in the festive period. I wonder what else it's keeping under its hat...

Drawing the biggest 'oohs' though, had to be Microprose's stand. ***Microprose Golf*** (snappy title, guys) looks like making a strong challenge for ***PGA Tour***'s title as top 16-bit golf sim, with its 3D polygon graphics and MicroProse's traditional attention to detail.

Also on show was ***Formula One Grand Prix***. Written by Geoff Cramond of ***Stunt Car Racer*** fame, a polygon-graphics ***Indy 500***-style race game. It scores over the latter in graphic detail (the course is packed with scenery, at the level of the arcade version of Sega's ***Super Monaco GP***). Everything zips around at a very impressive rate, and there are all the usual options and different views and such like you'd expect from MicroProse. No word on a release date yet, but this really ought to be an enormous success. Start saving up now and prepare to be impressed. ■

TOP 10

ALL FORMATS FULL PRICE

THIS WEEK	LAST WEEK	TITLE	PUBLISHER	MACHINE
1	1	*Thunderhawk*	Core Design	AG
2	7	*Lemmings*	Psygnosis	ST AG PC
3	3	*Rainbow Collection*	Ocean	ST AG
4	10	*Gods*	Renegade	ST AG
5	2	*Man United Europe*	Krisalis	ST AG
6	5	*F15 Strike Eagle 2*	Microprose	ST AG PC
7	6	*Eye of the Beholder*	US Gold	AG PC
8	4	*Monkey Island*	US Gold	ST AG PC
9	8	*PGA Tour Golf*	Electronic Arts	AG PC OT
10	NE	*ELF*	Ocean	ST AG

ST = Atari ST AG = Commodore Amiga PC = IBM PC or compatible SP = Spectrum
CO = Commodore 64 AM = Amstrad OT = Other.
Chart compiled by Gallup. © European Leisure Software Publishers Assoc.

SLUSH FUND CORNER

Far be it from me to speculate, but can it really be true that a hack from Another Computer Mag was 'gifted' a VGA PC by a firm exhibiting at the show, in return for a couple of pages of coverage which his mag had been planning to give them anyway (not that he let on, of course...)? I wouldn't like to say for sure, but...

TERMINATOR 2

Ocean • C64 £10.99 tape, £15.99 disk, £TBA cartridge ★ ★

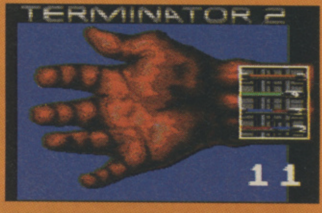
Ocean's latest movie licence at least has a halfway-decent film to base itself on, but has it made the most of it or is it another production-line formula job? Bit of a rhetorical question, that. Ocean has found a strategy that seems to do the business for them, and it's difficult to see them changing it until that ceases to be the case.

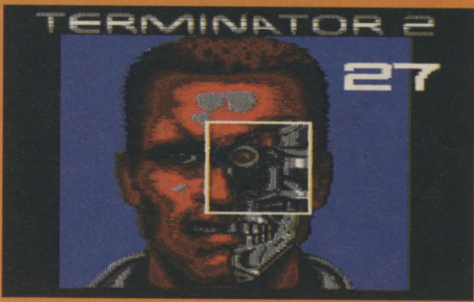
In *Terminator 2* you get a couple of simplistic beat-'em-up sections (so no surprises there), a couple of tough driving sequences (so no surprises there), a couple of little puzzle sub-games (so no surprises there), and some fairly uneventful *Double Dragon*-ish maze runaround levels (so, er, no surprises there). But only one of them, the second driving stage where you have to drive a van and control Sarah Connor shooting at a pursuing helicopter out of the back door at the same time, brings any vaguely imaginative ideas, or decent entertainment, into play.

The beat-'em-up parts are particularly rank, and the whole thing has been set at a severe level of toughness, undoubtedly as a cheapskate way to provide it with some degree of addictiveness.

Sound and graphics are admittedly fairly impressive, with some huge sprites in particular looking very good for an 8-bit machine, but surely everyone knows better than to be suckered by pretty pictures by now. Don't they? (Another rhetorical question).

• *Terminator 2*: two puzzle sections in this movie licence mixed bag of game styles





BEG, BORROW AND BURN

OK, OK, you win. I can hardly open the office door for the amount of letters I've had in the last few weeks complaining that I never review any of the more 'grown-up' games software available on the larger machines.

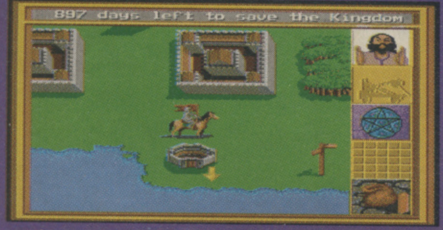
And it's a fair enough criticism, I can't just go reviewing fun games all the time, so, especially for all you grumpy old D&D FRPG fans out there, here's my authoritative and expert opinion on what's what in the orc-slashing field these days. It has to be said, I wasn't particularly looking forward to playing any of these when our copies came in, but all of them affected me in one way or another...

BEG

KING'S BOUNTY • NEW WORLD COMPUTING

This is a corker. All too often the 'serious' nature of this kind of thing provides programmers with an excuse for sloppy, ugly products, copping out with the claim that decent graphics, user-friendly interfaces and tidy presentation aren't what's important in this genre.

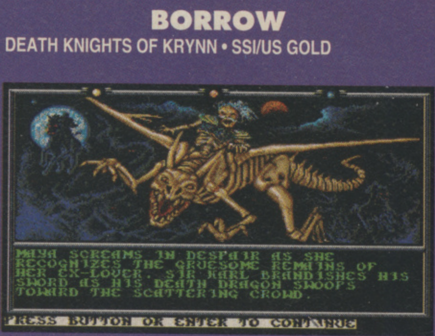
This game is the exception to the rule, a beautifully put-together and accessible affair that I played enjoyably for several hours without having to refer to the manual once. It's fast-moving and involving, and any kind of games fan could have fun with this.



• *King's Bounty*: an RPG worth playing...

BORROW

DEATH KNIGHTS OF KRYNN • SSI/US GOLD



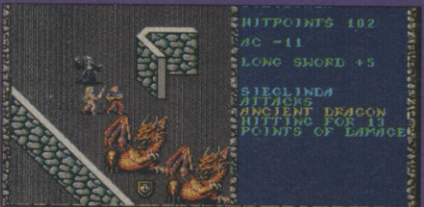
MAYA SCREAMS IN DESPAIR AS SHE RECOGNIZES THE GRUESOME REMAINS OF HER EX-LOVER. SIR KARL BRANDISHES HIS SWORD AS HIS DEATH DRAGON SWOOPS TOWARD THE SCATTERING CROWD.

• *Knights of Krynn*: an RPG worth looking at...

'Average' is a word that seems to crop up a lot whenever I'm writing this column. And funnily enough, it's a word that I'm going to use again in a minute about *Death Knights Of Krynn*. It's a competent-enough troll-chopper, but everything about it screams 'production-line-churn-'em-out-the-daft-buggers'll-buy-anything-with-the-official-D&D-logo-on-it-ho-hum-snoozerama'. Which must leave it a bit out of breath, but there you go. This isn't terrible, but it's not the game to buy if you just want to dip a toe into some new waters, and that's for sure. It's all just too...average.

BURN

SECRET OF THE SILVER BLADES (SSI/US Gold)



HITPOINTS 102
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LONG SWORD +5
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HITTING FOR 13
POINTS OF DAMAGE

• *Silverblades*: an RPG worth destroying

In my forthcoming country-wide series of lectures on 'How To Do A *Dungeons & Dragons*-Style Amiga Game', this is the one I'll be using as the example of how it can all go tragically wrong.

Incomprehensible screens full of nested menus, atrociously stupid copy-protection, completely action-free gameplay, hideously complicated battle sequences, this is complete agony to battle through, and if you like spending money to torture yourself in this way I'd venture to suggest that you're a sick, sick man. ('Cos let's face it, girls have more sense than to fall for this sort of crap).

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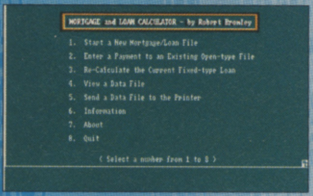

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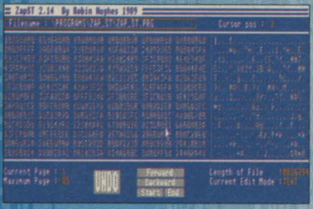

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